

JOE'S TIME TRAVEL ADVENTURES

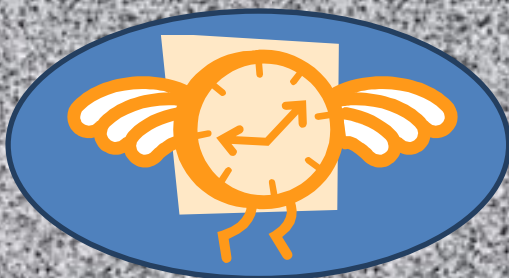
Experience the Whole Bible Story of How God is Saving Humanity

A VBS Adventure

See for Yourself why Jesus had to come!

Now Touring:

- **NOAH'S ARK**
- **ANCIENT ISRAEL**
- **JESUS' DAY**
- **ANCIENT GREECE**
- **INTO THE FUTURE!**



Credits and Acknowledgements

Thanks to Mountain Christian Church in Cedar Crest NM for teaching me how to do VBS. It was only after watching them accomplish VBS with such passion and purpose for several years that I was able to envision this time travel concept. Many individuals at Mountain Christian Church helped write sections of this program and are acknowledged throughout. Thanks to Graeme Goldsworthy for instilling in me the importance of understanding of biblical theology and the entire story of scripture and to the leaders of T4G for a fresh understanding of our need to clearly articulate the Gospel in all things.

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PART 1: OVERVIEW

Basic Overview

Overview:

Adult leaders (“Travel Guides”) will take their group of 8-10 children to different locations in ancient biblical time to experience the Gospel as it unfolds through biblical history. Children will travel to Noah’s town where he is building the ark (day 1), then to Old Testament Israel (day 2), Jerusalem during Passion Week (day 3), Ephesus as Paul is building the church (day 4), the present day mission field (day 5). Through the week, children will understand the Gospel as told by the story of the Bible and become trained to see mankind’s need for a Savior all around them.

Basic Logistics

A large room capable of holding all the kids and workers will become a place for daily “church-time” is needed. Another large room will be set up and decorate for different time periods with the doorway decorated as a “Time Portal”. Each day, groups will walk through the time portal and enter history and interact with actors depicting scenes appropriate to the lesson and the time period. Additional spaces for snacks, games and crafts are needed, capable of holding one fourth of the total number of children.

Goals for Kids

1. Understand and appreciate “church” by experiencing a relevant time of worship and teaching.
2. Understand and appreciate the whole Bible story and Gods redemptive plan.
3. Interact with and be loved by the local body; your kids, adults and church staff.
4. Provide an opportunity for people of all gifting to participate in VBS.

Daily Schedule (2 hours and 45 minutes for five days)

1. **Church Time.** (45min) All children will congregate in the “Worship Hall” for “church” to:
 - a. Pray, hear a short Scripture, teaching, and sing songs that reflect and reinforce the main idea of the day; God’s redemptive story.
 - b. Hear an engaging story that fills in the gaps of the Bible story between days.
 - c. Watch a “travel briefing” about where they will be traveling that day. They will learn basic information about the people and the time to better “see” and “experience” it.
2. **Travel Time.** (80min) The travel groups will rotate to these four events:
 - a. Enter the “time portal” where they will enter the “local market” where they will get a snack from that time period. Each group will also be “engaged” by the skit team along the way (perhaps a Roman centurion will demand they pay a tax). (20 min)
 - b. Snack time w/discussion (20 min)
 - c. Craft time w/discussion (20min)
 - d. Game time (20 min)
3. **Review Time.** (15min) Small Group Discussion Time: “Tour Guides” will discuss the day to ensure the kids all understand the main ideas and lessons of the day.
4. **Pickup Time.** (10min) All groups congregate in the worship hall for closing and parent pick-up.

Daily “Big Ideas and Goals”

Overview: Humanity was created by God to live with Him and display His image to the world. But because of sin, we can't, even when we have His rules to follow. In rebellion, we selfishly disobey. Jesus came to take our punishment for disobedience away and give us the new hearts and the power we need to obey, so we can live with God and display His image as we were created to do.

This is mankind's only hope to live as we were created, and Jesus' followers must tell everyone in the whole world so they can also come to live as they were created to. Soon, when everyone has heard about Jesus, He will come back to take all those who follow Him and create a new heaven and earth for them to live displaying God's image.

Day 1 Big Idea (In Noah's Home Town): Humans have sin that prevents us from living the way God created us to live (displaying His image w/Him). As a result, humanity became increasingly evil and was washed away by God's flood. But God promised Noah that He would provide a way for that never to happen again, so that humanity would be rescued from destruction.

Children will travel to the ancient town where Noah is building his ark to learn that without God's rules and because of sin, humanity is very bad and must be destroyed. **Ref. Gen 1:26-28; 6:1-8, Rom 1:16-32. GOAL: From this day forward, every time any of the children witness someone being mean, lying, etc., it will be a reminder that there is wickedness in every human heart and that is not the way it should be, and they need Jesus.**

Day 2 Big Idea (In Old Testament Israel): Human sin prevents us from living the way God created us to live (displaying His image w/Him) *even* when we have God's rules to live by. Breaking rules means punishment, but God promised a Savior who would take away our punishment and give us the ability to live as God created us (displaying His image w/Him).

Children travel to Jerusalem just before Jesus' birth to understand what it was like to *try* to follow all of God's rules, but without His Spirit (a new heart). **Ref. Neh 13. GOAL: After VBS, every time any of the children witness a rule, it will be a reminder that rule are necessary to control humans, because our hearts have wickedness in them, and that we really need a savior Jesus to fix our hearts, not more rules.**

Day 3 Big Idea (Jesus' Time): Jesus came as God's promised Savior, to take away our punishment for disobedience, and give us new hearts and the ability to live as God created us (displaying His image w/Him). As a result, people who follow Him can finally start to live the way they were created (displaying His image w/Him).

Children will travel back to Jerusalem, but now a powerful and wise man named Jesus is claiming to be the promised Messiah! He's been healing and teaching people, and driving the Jewish leaders crazy. Everyone is distracted and talking about this amazing man (from Nazareth?) who heals and teaches with God's authority! People say, "He's right, the leaders must stop adding more rules that burden the people." He is teaching them the meaning of the rules and HOW to follow them to become image-bearers like God designed! **Ref. John 10:19, 40-42, 12:37-42. GOAL: After VBS, every time one of the children witnesses someone being kind, loving and selfless, they will be reminded that Jesus the Son of God came to earth to take all our punishment for our wicked hearts, and give new loving hearts to anyone who wants to follow Him, so we can begin to behave as God created us too.**

Day 4 Big Idea (Paul's Time): Jesus' followers started to travel the world to tell everyone how Jesus came take their punishment for disobeying God's rules, and give them new hearts as well, and the ability to finally live as God designed (displaying His image w/Him).

Children will travel to Ephesus where Paul is preaching the Good News. Some people are believing, others disregarding and still others are filled with anger and want to punish Paul. **Ref. Acts 19:8-10, 21-41. GOAL: After VBS, every child will understand that Jesus' followers told others about Jesus, so they could be forgiven of their**

punishment and receive new hearts too. Jesus has been forgiving people and transforming their hearts for 2000 years!

Day 5 Big Idea (Mission Today): Today, Jesus' followers still travel the world to tell everyone how Jesus came take their punishment for disobeying God's rules, and can give them power to finally live as God designed (displaying His image w/Him).

Children will travel to a modern day city or town in a foreign land (pick a familiar mission trip) that does not know Jesus. Some folks are living by their own rules (like in Noah's time), others are living by religious rules, but there are missionaries who are sharing Jesus' Good News just like Paul, and with the same results! **GOAL: After VBS, every child will understand that Jesus' followers must continue to tell others about Jesus, so they can be forgiven of their punishment and receive new hearts too.**

Friday Evening Family Night Big Idea (Heaven): Jesus has created a new earth for all who chose to follow Jesus and display God's image as designed. (Future Marriage Banquet with the Lamb).

Children and parents cannot travel anywhere, as the time machine cannot go forward in time. We can only look to the scriptures to imagine what it must be like living with God face to face, without any sin at all, and together with others, who decided to allow Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, explore forever a new heaven and earth!

Ref. Rev 21-22. GOAL: Celebrate what God is doing to save humanity from the evil in their hearts, to bring them one day to heaven to love each other and God as He originally created us too.

Friday banquette is a time to show and tell the parents all that has been going on through the week. By summarizing the events of the week, the parents receive the Gospel message. It is a great time to take them into the time machine too.

Table of Daily Themes

Day:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Friday Night
<u>Location:</u> Description of what it is like in that era.	<u>Noah's Home</u> People are completely corrupt, no longer living at all like God created them; to display His good character.	<u>Israel before Jesus</u> People have laws to keep them for complete corruption, but still break the rules.	<u>Jerusalem in Jesus' Time</u> Jesus has been doing incredible miracles, and some people are hearing Jesus teach and are learning how to live as God intended.	<u>Emphasis in Paul's Time</u> People are learning about God and the Gospel.	<u>Mission Field Today: Bolivia</u> People are still sharing the Gospel around the world	<u>Heaven in the Future</u> Followers are now completely free from the effects of a sinful world living in heaven
<u>Big Idea:</u> If the children only learn one thing each day, these are it.	God created humans to display God's character and live with Him. Humans have sin that prevents us from doing that. As a result, humanity became increasingly evil destroyed by God's flood. But God promised to save us from our sin.	Human sin prevents us from living the way God created us to live, <i>even</i> when we have God's rules to live by, and so must be punished. But God promised a Savior who would take away our punishment and give us the ability to live as God created us.	Jesus came as Savior to take away our punishment for disobedience, and give us new hearts to live as God created us (displaying His image w/Him). As a result, people who follow Him can finally start to live the way they were created.	Jesus' followers started to travel the world to tell everyone how Jesus helps us obey God, takes our punishment for disobedience, and gives us new hearts and the ability to finally live as God designed.	Jesus' followers still travel the world to tell everyone how Jesus take our punishment for breaking them, and gives us power to finally live as God designed. They can have this too.	Jesus will create a new earth for all who chose to follow Him, and they will finally be able to display God's image as designed. (Future Marriage Banquet with the Lamb)
<u>Key Scripture</u>	Gen 1:26-28; 6:1-8, Rom 1, 5	Neh 13	John 10:19, 40-42, 12:37-42	Acts 19:8-10, 21-41.	Acts 1:8	Rev 21-22.
<u>Story and Skit:</u> Help the children understand the what happened between days, and what they can expect to see in the time machine.	God created the Garden, how Adam and Eve sinned, were removed from God's presence and filled the world with evil, that needed to be destroyed.	God started the nation of Israel with Abraham, and gave them laws from Moses and put them in the promised land, yet they still could not follow God's rules!	Israel struggled and failed to keep God's rules because their hearts still had sin. They were looking for the savior; God would give them new hearts.	Jesus was actually crucified by the unbelievers, but that was God's plan to take our punishment. He also sent the Holy Spirit, and the 12 are now spreading the Gospel	Jesus' followers have been sharing the Gospel for 2000 years, and new churches have been appearing ever since. Today, there are still places where people do not know Jesus!	Jesus came back and collected all the people who wanted to follow Him and live as God created them to. They now celebrate living with God and without sin on a new and perfect earth.
<u>Time Portal:</u> Reinforce the main idea.	People are pretending to be evil, mean and cheat.	Lots of rules, rule keeping and rule following, and still some rule breaking	Jesus is teaching and healing; some folks believe He is the Messiah but not everyone!	Believers are talking about Jesus; some believe; others don't; some get really mad.	Today, followers are still spreading the Gospel with much the same mixed results.	Family banquet will be an opportunity to share the whole week's teaching, as well the wedding feast.

Preschool Option

Preschoolers cannot typically keep up with older kids and may require a “separate” VBS experience. Consider providing preschoolers a tailored VBS outside the older kids schedule. Preschoolers can go through the time machine when the older kids are back in the main worship area at the end of VBS.

See Preschool Table on next page

General notes:

- Preschool leader should “give” or “repeat” (depending on if we stay in the “church time” or not) the lesson each day.
- Verse introduction will take place during lesson time, but practice it with kids throughout the events of the day.
- Repetition of the main point as much as possible is a good thing.
- If possible, put the daily verses in their craft books, or possibly a laminated and placed in a passport-type thing to take home. Maybe a clip-on plastic name tag holder.
- Consider if preschoolers stay upstairs for the entire “church time” or if it too long for them to sit. They may retain more if they are brought back to the preschool area after opening songs and pastor time and have a lesson on their “level”.
- Use “The Jesus Story Book Bible” (or similar) to tell the Bible truths.
- ** Rather than building a craft each day, the kids will be illustrating pages for a VBS book to take home on Friday and will include gluing the day’s verse on the page somewhere.

Gen. 9:16 “When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

Eph. 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;”

Jn 1:29 “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

Jn. 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.”

2 Cor. 5:21 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Rom. 10:14 “...How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?”

VBS Preschool Theme Table

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Main Point	We need a Rescuer because our hearts are filled with sin and need to be cleaned out.	Rules cannot clean our hearts. We need a Hero to save us.	Jesus is our Rescuer and He is here!	The rescue plan is Jesus taking our punishment for us and cleaning our hearts by giving us His.	Many others still don't know our Rescuer, but we can tell them.
Bible Passage*	Gen. 6-9: Focus on God's storm washing away hate and sadness and God's promise to send a Rescuer.	Ex 16-19, 19-40: Focus on God's rules are good, but we can't follow them perfectly and so deserve a consequence/punishment. Rules can't save us. We need a Rescuer!	Matt 3 (and others): John told people that the Rescuer was here! He has come! The Rescue plan has begun!	Matt 27, Mark 15, Lk 23, Jn 19: Focus on HOW Jesus rescued the world; by taking God's wrath for us and not staying dead, but alive and making a forever home for us.	Acts 6-9: Focus on how Jesus rescued Paul and how Jesus wants to use us to tell others that He is the One who rescues.
Verse	Gen. 9:16	Eph. 2:8-9	Jn 1: 29	Jn. 3:16 or 2 Cor. 5:21	Rom. 10:14
Craft**	Rainbow - glue colored tissue paper to decorate rainbow.	Picture of list of rules (kids trace w/ marker) within a circle w/ a line through it. Paint or markers &/or stickers	Dove - color with crayons/pencils & glue feathers on bird.	Cross - mosaic w/ big pieces for little fingers.	Possibly a photo of each child or of their VBS class as reminder of God rescuing them?
Structured Play	Water play outside.	Either no-bake cookies or pre-school board games.	Dress up - act out John baptizing and saying, "Behold! The Lamb..."	Any activity that gets hands and/or feet dirty, and requires cleaning before coming back inside.	Course where kids "travel" to places to tell of Jesus.
Teacher notes	1) for the craft, we may need to be in charge of the glue. 2) Use water play and craft time to reinforce the point of the day. ie "water can't clean up our hearts...we need Someone to rescue us," and "A rainbow reminds us of God's promise to send us a Hero," etc.	4) Play/bake (mix, really) with the kids and talk of rules being good, but they can't clean our heart. Only One person can. 5) For either of these activities, focus on how we need Someone to keep rules for us & take our punishment for breaking them so our hearts can be clean - A Rescuer!	- It may be tricky to not get focused on John this day. As we glue feathers, act out, etc., keep bringing kids back to the Rescuer Who has now come.	- This is a good day to speak of how Jesus exchanges our broken hearts with His clean, perfect heart...believing that we need Him b/c of our sin and that He will live in us to make our heart's clean and just like His....of course all of this on a 3 yr old level! :)	- Course will be in our room. Kids will travel in a "boat" (really big plastic tub that we pull), visit a tent, maybe go to the grassy plains (outside on grass). - Prompt kids to repeat big lessons from Days 1-4 to tell the others (puppets? stuffed animals?) of Jesus.

PART 2: LEADERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Note: Time Travel VBS is divided into two phases; a planning phase and execution phase.

Planning is done 2-6 months prior to VBS. This team will require leaders and team members to look ahead and plan well to make sure the people who will execute VBS will have at their disposal all they will need for success. This VBS opens the door for your creative writers to write the skits, stories and songs. Use your artists to create Time-travel tickets, decorate and so much more. The appendix is filled with complete examples of all these elements as needed to use in lieu of your churches creative talent.

Each VBS element should have its own leader and team (Games, crafts, etc.) These elements will require some creative input by the creative folks in your church to make sure they reinforce the daily themes. For example, what available games will reinforce the daily themes? What available crafts will reinforce them too?

Execution begins 1-2 months prior to VBS. The execution team will “make happen” what the planning team came up with. Having two teams shares the load and allows for more people opportunity to be involved if desired. It might be that many of the planning team are part of the execution team as well.

Planning/Creative Team Requirements (to “create” the plan)

Leader/Coordinator/Administrator: Keep in contact with the creative teams to make sure everyone has what they need to produce all that will be needed on time. Recommend 2 or 3 co-leaders to share this duty and that these leaders also lead the execution team.

Story and skit writers (Optional; example in appendix) : Take the overall theme and write stories that explain what is happening in the time period between VBS days. Write interactive skits and scenes that will play out with each group in the market place. Goal: Develop a cohesive storyline from day to day that the children can naturally follow, remember and come to clearly understand the main theme and big ideas; why humanity desperately needs a Savior.

Costumer: Take the costume materials we have and the overall theme, and create design elements to help guide how participants dress for each time period. Goal: Children clearly see they are in a different time period.

Lyrics and Music writers (Optional; songs in appendix): Take the simple lyrics and put them to catchy music that can be easily learned and sung in different “time periods”. Goal: Children leave with Bible truths and tunes stuck in their heads.

Crafts Designer: Take the daily themes and come up with creative crafts that can be sold from inside the time portal to the children. Crafts should be a reminder of the time period and the nature of the people there.

Games designer: Take the overall theme and create or modify games for each day (time period). Goal: Reinforce that the children are “in time” as well as the “big idea” of each day.

Snacks Chef: Take the overall theme and create snacks that will help the children remember “where” and “when” they are “in time”, as well as somehow reinforce the “Big Idea” of each day.

Time Portal Room Design Team: Take the overall theme of each day, and the creative inputs of the artists, and develop a market place where children can experience the people of the time period, purchase snacks and do a craft.

Family Night Banquet Planner: Take the overall theme and plan a banquet dinner for Friday night for all the family members of VBS. A church small group makes a great host for this party

Execution Team Requirements (to “execute” the plan)

Registration Team (w/leader): Prepare to quickly register all the kids efficiently using a Travel Agent motif.

DVD Team. Take pictures and video from the week to build a DVD presentation that clearly communicates the overall theme and big ideas. Video record the songs we’ve been singing to use as background and set different chapters on the DVD according to the days of VBS. Show the “slide show” portion Friday evening at the big gathering and send every child home with a copy.

Kid’s Church “Service Leader” or “Pastor”: Be the “emcee” for all the elements of the children’s “church time” to ensure all that happens goes smoothly. Includes preparing short prayers, finding and reading key scriptures that go along with the rest of the time. This should not be boring...

Music Team (w/leader): Take the theme songs, supplement as needed with other music, and teach and lead the children to sing them. Coordinate with sound tech servants as well.

Story Teller(s): Take the stories written by your writers (or use stories in appendix 6) and transport the children “to the place and time”, catching them up along the biblical time-line each day.

Skit Team (w/leader): Take the overall theme, the artistic inputs of the costume designers, and the skits of the writers and transport the children “into the time” via engaging skits each day in the Time Portal. Example skits are available in appendix 8.

Time Travel Tours (Lead Travel Agent plus 8 Travel Guides): The travel agent will prepare to brief and debrief the children each day, giving them their first look into the time they will be traveling to. They will also “sum up the trip” at the end of the day to make sure they take away the “big idea”. Each travel guide will lead a group of 8-10 children on their journey each day and discuss all that they are learning experiencing to fully grasp the main theme and big idea each day.

Time Portal Team (w/leader): Take the overall theme, the creative inputs of the designers, and builds an environment for the drama team to engage with the small groups. Use varied lighting, temperature and smells to create the illusion of a different place and time each day.

Snack Team (w/leader): Take the inputs of the “chef” to prepare the snacks for all the children each day, both interesting “time portal” snacks and snacks to eat “in our time”.

Games Team (w/leader): Take the creative input from the games designer and the overall theme, and make it all come together for the small groups each day.

Family Night Banquet Team (w/leader): Take the creative plan for the banquet and make it happen for everyone; from set-up, cooking and clean-up.

Clean-up Team (w/leader): On Saturday following VBS; tear down and clean-up the mess, getting MCC back to normal for Sunday services the following day.

Planning/creative Leadership Team Roster

Note: Depending on the job and the abilities of the individual, one person can volunteer for several positions in leadership and/or helping as assistants

VBS Team Leader(s): _____.

_____.

_____.

Time Portal Designer: _____.

Games Designer: _____.

Crafts Designer: _____.

Snacks Designer: _____.

Song-worship Planner: _____.

Execution Team Leaders Roster

Registration Team Leader: _____.

Church-time coordinator: _____.

Church Time Preacher: _____.

Story Tellers: _____.

Music Team Leader: _____.

Time Travel Briefers: _____.

Time Portal Team Leader: _____.

Games Team Leader: _____.

Crafts Team Leader: _____.

Snacks Team Leader: _____.

DVD Team Leader: _____.

Family Banquet Night Team Leader: _____.

VBS Clean-up Team Leader: _____.

Part 3: VBS PLANNING TIMELINE

6 Months Before (Date _____) Church Commitment to VBS

- Meet with appropriate church leadership to cast a vision for the curriculum and get buy-in from necessary groups.
- Begin to pray for the children, families, and volunteers who will be a part of **VBS**
- Set VBS dates on your church calendar.
- Create a working budget for **VBS**.

5 Months Before (Date _____) Leadership Established; Vision Casting Begins

- Create and gather your lead team from church staff and other ministries who have necessary insight and skill, or just clarifying roles and responsibilities within your children's ministry staff.
- Identify past volunteers to pursue as key leaders to help create and execute the vision.

4 Months Before (Date _____) Creative People/Teams/Leaders Identified and put to work

- Gather past volunteers **to cast a vision** and find **potential leaders**. You may want to consider hosting a coffee or dessert and inviting these key people to an informational meeting to cast vision. It's important that people focus on the "why" of the vision rather than on all the "how to's" at this point in the planning. Make sure to allow them to sign up for a leadership position after being inspired.
- Start to fill out "creative team" roster and begin creative process, writing songs, skits and stories.
- Continue to meet regularly with your lead team for updates, encouragement, and prayer.

3 Months before (Date _____) Creative Process Underway

- Creative teams continue to work to complete stories, skits, time travel environments and music.
- All "creators" should begin establishing what items need to be collected and purchased.
- Provide your church families with a "Save the Date" communication giving them dates and vision for **VBS** via email or print material. You may also want to let them know more information will be coming within the weeks that follow.
- Begin recruiting general volunteers that will serve during VBS week.

2 Months before (Date _____) Creative Process Complete, Marketing and Execution Begins

- Creative Teams should have their work complete.
- Posters go up in the community.
- Music complete, recording begun with CD's ready for distribution when registration begins June 7th.
- Execution teams and leaders established and underway.
- Continue recruiting general volunteers. (Host an interest table where appropriate.)
- Process volunteer applications and background checks.

1.5 Months before (Date _____) Registrations and Marketing in Earnest

- Active registration begins; sign-ups in church, posters out in the community
- CDs and promo material handed out and mailed out with each registration.
- Begin distributing **VBS** promotional postcards and posters in their communities.
- Promote **VBS** to your church families.
- All supplies ordered, and donations list offered to congregation, collections begin.

1 Month Before (Date _____) Execution begins

- Send out a final call for general volunteers. (All volunteers should be confirmed and screened prior to your volunteer training.)
- Finish gathering supplies and making final preparations.

2 Weeks before (Date_____)

- Hold a mandatory training meeting for all leaders and general volunteers.
- Leaders should organize and become familiar with all of the supplies and curriculum given to them.
- Leaders should gather their individual teams at least one time in the weeks prior to **VBS**.

1 Week before (Date_____) Final Preparations

- Make sure leaders are not missing any supplies.
- Communicate the work schedule for the week of **VBS** to all volunteers.
- Build physical parts (Actual time portal, Noah's time environment prepared, group areas established)

Week of VBS (Date_____) Execution

- Leader should be all areas daily to encourage all leaders and volunteers, serve any needs that arise and gather feedback from each day activities.
- Clean up as much as possible during the week, and especially after the last event. The less work remaining for the official "clean-up" day the better. Volunteers will be very tired and few in number by this last day.

1 Week after (Date_____) Follow-up

- Volunteers and staff complete evaluations.
- Provide a thank-you letter or gifts to key leaders and volunteers.
- Find creative ways to share your **VBS** stories with your church leadership and congregation. Use pictures, videos, and firsthand testimonies. Showing a shortened version of the children's DVD is ideal.

PART 4: GENERAL DIRECTIONS

“Church Time” General Directions

Goal: The goal is to provide a model for a great Sunday morning church. Church is where we learn God’s story from the bible, and begin to understand why we need a Savior. This is also where we come to worship, pray, and read God’s Word together. We come with our brains turned on high, prepared to learn mysteries of the universe that only God can teach us.

Typical Morning “Worship Service” Schedule (45min):

1) **Announcements:** Today we will learn about... and travel to... We will eat snacks from... and play a game that....

(Beginning of Worship Time)

2) **Pray together (Pastor):** Children will be led to pray for God to give us the ability to understand the Bible story, and learn from it so we can learn. Ability to pay attention, confess that we too are sinful in our hearts, etc.

3) **Sing Together (Song Leader):** Children will learn and sing engaging songs that are real worship; with lyrics that teach about God, man, redemption. They will be engaging and exciting songs, easy to learn, easy to sing and easy to remember.

4) **Read scripture together (Pastor):** They will hear a short passage of scripture selected to correspond with the theme of the day. It will be emphasized that, “This is the Word of God, and everything that it says is true, and necessary for us to learn in order to live with God and display His character to others.”

5) **Hear a short sermon (Pastor):** (5min) Pastors help us understand the Bible, so the pastor will give a short explanation about the passage that was read.

6) **Story time (Storyteller):** Children will hear an engaging narrative that fills in the gaps of the bible story between days as told by someone from that time.

7) **Offering (Pastor or Song Leader):** Simply explain the importance of providing means for the Good News to spread around the world. Consider waiting for last day or two to collect anything. Explain exactly where the money will go and how it will help share the Gospel.

8) **Pray (Pastor):** Pray for each other to see and understand our need for Jesus, safety for the day, our parents, etc. Whatever is appropriate and edifying for the morning.

(End of Worship Time)

8) **Time Travel Briefing.** The Time Travel Director will give some important instruction to our travelers for when they enter the time machine. “Watch how selfish people are” or “See how different the followers of Jesus act.” They can be shown a few pictures of the time. They must be briefed on the specific procedures for entering the Time Portal, and any safety protocols once they are in the time. (I.e. if you get separated from the group, keep a low profile and make your way back to the Gateway and wait for the rest of your group. (Of course they will not get lost, but it will help build excitement about their adventure)

Story Time General Directions

Goal: The goal of the story time is to fill in the gaps of the bible story between days. Children should come away from each story telling understanding that the Bible is one big story, and we're just "stopping in" at select points along the way.

Noah's Ark: The story must tell of creation and the Beautiful Garden and how God used to walk and talk with Adam and Eve; everything was good and right until they broke God's rules and were cast out of the garden. How mankind decayed into total evil without God's rules or His companionship. Thankfully though, God promised Adam and Eve that somehow He would remove the curse of sin. Maybe he will save Noah and His family, the only good people left, to save all mankind from destruction! Reference Gen 1:26-28; 6:1-8, Rom 1:16-32.

Israel Before Jesus: The story must tell of how God brought the flood, just like Noah said, and swept everything evil away, but promised to keep mankind from falling into that state again, and how he chose a man named Abraham to start a great nation of people, and God, via Moses, gave them rules to live by so another flood would not have to come, but they were unable to keep all the rules (which means punishment!), and some people even added more rules! What the people needed was a savior to take away their punishment, and give them new hearts so they could learn to carry God's image; live and be with God just as God created us for! Oh that would be so good! "Thankfully, God has promised to bring us a savior who will change their hearts so they can happily work to follow God's rules, and somehow, keep from receiving the punishment we have coming. How will that happen? Could the rumors be true? Ref. Neh 13.

Jesus' Time in Jerusalem: The story must describe Jesus' ministry on earth; how Israel was waiting and waiting, having not heard from God for a long time; everyone trying to follow God's rules but not from their heart. Rumors about a virgin who was pregnant with a little boy, just like the old prophecies told. Maybe how Herod killed a lot of children because of the rumor (?) Many years passed, but this boy, now grown to be a man, has been doing amazing things! He is claiming to be from God and even God Himself (His only Son); some people reject, many follow and believe, and religious leaders are threatening to kill Him (point to the Cross in a couple days!) Others follow, even some of the leaders follow in secret! Ref. John 10:19, 40-42, 12:37-42.

Paul in Ephesus: Paul is traveling all over the Mediterranean sharing with everyone (both Jew and Greek) about Jesus; how he came to give people new hearts to truly follow God's way, and take the punishment for all their disobedience. Some people believe Paul's Good News, want to follow Jesus so His punishment on the cross counts for them also, and so they will receive the power to obey God and display His good character on earth. Others hate what Paul is teaching and get Him arrested. He has been beaten, shipwrecked, put in jail. Other times he lives like a king! Whatever situation Paul finds himself in, he is sharing the Gospel "along the way". Ref. Acts 19:8-10, 21-41.

Missionary Today in a Foreign City: Story tells how the apostles continued to follow Jesus' instructions to spread the Gospel around the whole world.

Planning Timetable and Recommendations

If stories are to be written or changed, they must be written in time for the story-teller(s) to memorize them, which might be a couple weeks or a couple months.

We recommend that all the stories be reviewed and edited by several people who can help ensure it clearly communicates the key events of biblical history in an engaging way.

We also recommend that the Tour Guides be provided a few good discussion questions about the story to make sure the main ideas were understood.

Time Portal Skits General Directions

Goal: The goal of the skits is to help the children understand the effects of sin and salvation upon the people of the various times. Skits can be funny or serious, but they must be clear and easy for a young child to understand. Write for 3-4 actors. Use example skits in appendix 8 if desire.

Day 1-Noah's Ark: Skit must clearly communicate that the people in the time are NOT walking with God, or following His rules. They are selfishly making up their own rules and laws that benefit them, with complete disregard for anyone else. As a result, nobody really follows anyone's rules, and it pretty much chaos, and very unsafe. Reference Gen 1:26-28; 6:1-8, Rom 1:16-32.

Today's Worldview Battle: Humans are still making up their own selfish rules, and it is resulting in a society that is quick to demand that "my rights" be protected, and ignorant of the idea that "I have a responsibility toward others". For instance, it's ok to kill babies when it's inconvenient for me to have one, but it's never ok for someone to kill me. Making up our own rules for each other is NEVER going to keep us from harming each other, and it will NEVER bring us to display God's image (selfless love, long-suffering kindness, true justice and mercy), and so they will never bring us to be able to escape his judgment.

Day 2-Pre-Jesus Israel: Skit must reflect that God's chosen and beloved people, Israel is **working VERY hard to follow** all of God's rules. It is so sad that no matter how hard they try, they simply can't. Many people still "cheat" and break God's laws in secret. Others just obey on the outside. The Pharisees are making up even more rules to try and please God. The hearts of the people are still contaminated by sin, and they can't joyfully obey in order to display God's image. They are miserable because they know they will be punished for breaking God's laws. They need to be transformed on the inside, and somehow escape God's punishment. Ref. Neh 13.

Day 3-Jesus in Israel: Skit must reflect the **new hope** that is on the faces and in the hearts of the people. Those who have heard Him speak (with authority!) and seen Him heal (with God's power) are wondering, could this really be the Messiah? How will He give us new hearts? How will He take away our punishment for breaking God's laws? Some people believe and are hopeful, others don't believe and are clueless, and some are getting really mad at Him, and want to kill him! Ref. John 10:19, 40-42, 12:37-42.

Day 4-Paul in Ephesus: Skit must reflect that Paul is teaching the Good News to everyone! God kept all His promises. He took away the punishment for breaking God's rules (death on the cross) and if we are willing, He will begin to change our hearts so we can start to display God's image and live with Him as He originally designed. Ref. Acts 19:8-10, 21-41.

Missionary Today in a Foreign City: Skit may be about modern day missionaries who are seeing all kinds of strange and funny customs, and being very careful to not offend anyone, but become their friend so they can tell them about Jesus.

Planning Timetable and Recommendations: Skits must be written in time for the drama team to learn them well, which might be a couple weeks or a couple months. Please have the skits completed two months before VBS to give actors plenty of time to learn the material.

We recommend that all the skits be reviewed and edited by several people who can help ensure it clearly communicates what is intended.

We also recommend that the Time Travel Team Leaders be provided a few good discussion questions about the skit to make sure the main ideas were understood.

Adapt the details according to the age of the group. Actors must be able to alter the skits somewhat to account for the various ages of children. For example, some older groups may be able to endure be “robbed” of their money, but that might be much too frightening for the younger children who perhaps only need to be “teased” or slightly “bullied” to get a good view of their own sinful behaviors.

Theme Songs General Directions

The Goal: The goal of the songs is to:

- 1) Remind and reinforce the biblical truths experienced during VBS week.
- 2) Be fun and easy to learn so the children remember the song and remember biblical truth.
- 3) Provide opportunity for the creative members of our body an opportunity to use their gifts for the Glory of God and salvation of children.

Possible Song themes that reinforce the “Big Ideas”

Huge Theme Song: 1 verse for each day’s theme and a chorus that rejoices in God’s overall plan to redeem humanity. Song will be as catchy, upbeat and memorable as “Pharaoh, Pharaoh”. Use theme song in appendix 7 if desired.

A **“God is great and worthy to be praised song”** Pure worship, praise and adoration; all about who God is. Desired response: He is so awesome; of course we want to learn to display His image instead of our own! (Very upbeat, bright, engaging, attractive to listen to and sing)

An **“I want to walk with God and learn to display God’s image to the world”** song. A key theme in this VBS is our inability to do what God designed us to do, and that only with Jesus can we do it, and of course, it’s not automatic. We have to really want it.

A **“Longing for Jesus” Ballad** that reflects on the sin around us (and in us) and our hunger for God’s salvation and righteousness; “O God, come save me from this body of death” kind of thing. (Slower, perhaps a minor key)

A **“Jesus, please change my heart”** song. Reflecting on the idea that no matter how good we act on the outside, no matter how good we are at following the rules, on the inside we are still selfish; we need a new heart.

A **“Gotta go and tell the world about Jesus”** Song (Very up- beat, encouraging, emboldening)

A **“Heaven’s gonna be great!”** song. No more sin, no more religious rules that get us nowhere, walking with Jesus and exploring creation forever with all the people that love me perfectly! A perfect body, no more bad thoughts about others, etc. Heaven will be great.

Timetable

At a minimum, all song must be written, edited and approved in time for the music team to learn the songs well. This may be a couple weeks or it might be a couple months. Please have the songs complete two months prior to VBS.

We recommend that all songs be recorded to a CD and handed out to all the children when they register for VBS, giving them time to learn and enjoy the music before they come.

We also recommend that the songs be learned by the children of the church ahead of time.

"Travel Portal" Room General Directions

Goal: The goal of the time portal is to "transport" each group of children back into the selected time so they can witness examples of life in that time that they can relate to at their age. We want them to be able to see and recognize sinful and righteous behaviors that they can recognize in their world today.

For instance, in Noah's time when people were completely corrupt, a 1st grader may not understand a sarcastic argument, and might be frightened by a dangerous or scary situation, but they can relate a scene that depicts selfishness, like two children arguing over who gets to "go first", or whose ball it is, "It's mine!", "No, It's mine!", etc.

Older children will need older examples of poor (or good) behavior that they can recognize in their own lives and be able to see, "Wow, I'm acting just like those evil people in Noah's time."

How to Build a Time machine: Just think Disney Ride through Pirate's Cove, but of course without the pirates. It could be taking a large room or series of rooms and transform it with various decorations and live actors. Each group of children will enter into what is going on "in that time" to witness behaviors and activities that are dynamic and captivating.

Day 1 (Noah's Ark): Children are transported to the ancient town where Noah is building his ark to learn what life is like without God's rules and God's Spirit. Because of sin, humanity has gone very bad, and God is about to wash it away with a flood. People are acting selfish, hurting each other, arguing, stealing, making fun of others, bullying, gossiping. Overall, they are very naughty, very ugly. Reference Gen 1:26-28; 6:1-8, Rom 1:16-32.

Day 2 (Old Testament Israel-Jerusalem): This people called Israel has been given God's rules, and they are doing their best to obey them, but its really hard because they still sinful at heart! Things are indeed much, much better, but there are SO MANY RULES! And nobody is really very happy. There isn't much joy or love, and everyone still inclined to cheat a little if they can get away with it, and when they are caught, they are severely punished, because everyone knows God's rules, and if you break the rules, you are severely punished! Ref. Neh 13.

Day 3 (Jerusalem during Passion Week- Same basic set up as day-2 with only a few cosmetic changes): We're headed back to the exact same place, only it's 30 years later and a man named Jesus has been walking around teaching and doing miracles. This is the first day we will begin to see the difference Jesus makes. Some people are talking about this amazing man (from Nazareth?) who heals and teaches with God's authority, hopeful, and much more concerned about people than "the Law". Others just disregard all the rumors and are continue to obey all the rules. Still other are filled with hatred toward Jesus and are looking for an opportunity to stop His teaching at any cost. Ref. John 10:19, 40-42, 12:37-42.

Day 4: (Ephesus During Paul's Time): Jesus' followers have started to travel the world to tell everyone how Jesus help them obey God's rules, take their punishment for disobedience, and give them new hearts and the ability to finally live as God designed (displaying His image w/Him). Paul is traveling and sharing the Gospel in this GREEK

city, well after Jesus was crucified. Children should see how some people are listening and believing, some are ignoring Paul, and still others are getting mad at Him. Those who listen and follow Jesus have been forgiven of their sin and have received a new heart and can obey God, loving each other and God. Ref. Acts 19:8-10, 21-41.

Day 5: (Present day Mission Filed in Foreign City): We're in a modern day foreign city or town where they don't know Jesus. Vendors follow a different "traditions" or "religion" and have odd customs. Children are encouraged to share what they know carefully and with great respect. Police are around and it is illegal to "convert" people. Some people, just like in Noah's time, are still trying to live by their own selfish rules. Others are trying to live good lives by religious rules. There are missionaries explaining the Gospel; how Jesus who died to take their punishment for disobedience, and lives to show them how to carry God's image (love others and God). These people are beginning to display righteousness because God has given them a new heart and forgiven them of their sin.

Day 5 Evening (Future in Heaven): Unfortunately, the time machine only goes into the past and cannot take us into the future. We'll have to just imagine what it will be like living without ANY sin in our lives, with God face to face, and exploring a beautiful new heaven and earth that is completely free from the curse of sin!

Planning Timetable and Recommendations

Details of the "Time Machine" room must be established in time for decorations to be gathered and purchases to be made which might be a couple weeks or months. Please have the basic idea formulated a month before VBS to give people time to find materials.

We recommend that the Tour Guides be provided a list of "what to look for" for each time period and few good discussion questions about for each day that will help them lead a discussion with their children and make sure the main ideas were understood. For example, "Did you see how that man in the store was acting? Have you ever seen that in our time? What would it be like if everyone always acted like that?"

Games General Directions

Goals: The goal of game time is of course to have fun, and burn off some energy. It is also a unique opportunity to reinforce the "big idea" for each day. Children should come away from game time understanding, according to their age, what it would be like trying to play games and interacting with the people from the different time periods.

For example, a 1st grader might really identify with people cheating in order to win. Or how hard it is to play when there are no rules at all! "That's not fair!" according to my rules, but everyone has their own rules!

Day 1 (Noah's Ark): This is a good day to demonstrate how hard it is to play a game without rules, or when anyone can make up their own rules. This could be very frustrating, so it may be better to just discuss it, or try it once without rules and then play it "for real" and let the children experience how much more fun it is when we have rules that are created by someone that apply to everyone (don't make up our own). Think Gen 1:26-28; 6:1-8, Rom 1:16-32.

Day 2 (Israel before Jesus' Time): This is a good day to have LOTS OF RULES that are impossible to follow. They must follow them exactly or they don't get the prize. As it turns out, nobody can follow all the rules well enough to win! How frustrating! Ref. Neh 13.

Day 3 (Jesus during Passion Week): This is a good day to experience how Jesus wants us to trust him and obey His rules; in ways that are loving to others. Perhaps let them line up, and then start the game with the last in line (the first shall be last). Give the "prize" to the one who is most courteous and nice, not the one who is fastest.

There might be a great way to demonstrate “forgiveness” when a rule is broken, and have a substitute take the punishment and sit “on the bench” for the offender. Ref. John 10:19, 40-42, 12:37-42.

Day 4 (Paul in Ephesus): This is a good day to experience a brand new game from an ancient Greek culture. You don’t have to find an actual game from ancient Greece, just one that they are not familiar with, or perhaps one they already know but add some weird new rules, “This is how they might play a game in ancient Greece.” Paul wanted to demonstrate love by not offending their culture and customs; he “played their games their way”. He carefully learned their rules, and obeyed them. He wanted to let God’s Spirit work through him so they will be willing to listen to the Gospel. This may have seemed like a strange game to Paul, but when he learned it and got so good at it they began to respect him. Ref. Acts 19:8-10, 21-41.

Day 5 (Modern Day Mission Field): This is a good day to experience a brand new game from a different culture today. You don’t have to find an actual game from China, just one that they are not familiar with, or perhaps one they already know but add some weird new rules, “This is how they might play this game in China.” We want to demonstrate Christ’s love and respect, not offend their culture and customs. We must learn to play “their games their way”. We must carefully learn their rules, and obey them. Just like Paul, we wanted to let God’s Spirit work through us so they will be willing to listen to the Gospel. This may seem like a strange game to us, but let’s learn it and get so good at it that they will be willing to hear us talk about Jesus.

Planning Timetable and Recommendations

Games must be written in time for the games team to learn them well, which might be a couple days or weeks. Please have the games completed a month before VBS to give plenty of time to gather necessary equipment and supplies.

We recommend that all the games be reviewed by the game team to make sure the desired principle will be clear. It will also help to “try them out” with a group of children beforehand and edit as necessary.

We also recommend that the Tour Guides be provided a few good discussion questions about the games to make sure the main ideas were understood. For example, “What would it be like if there were no rules in your classroom? How about at home?”

Snacks General Directions

Goals: The goal of snack time is, of course, to replenish some of that burned off energy and keep the children going to the end. It is also a unique opportunity to reinforce the “big idea” for each day. Children can come away from snack time with added understanding of what it would be like just eating food in that time periods. In addition to the “regular” snacks children will consume, we want to offer the opportunity to taste foods from the different time periods. These snacks can be purchased in a market stall in the “Time Portal” to add authenticity and additional interaction with the people of that time.

Day 1 (Noah’s Ark): This is a good day to demonstrate that without rules in cooking, everything is really messed up; or worse when people are free to do whatever they want. If the children enter into the time to “buy” their snack, it might be good if it were pretty nasty, and find that the cook ran out of flour and decided to just add sand to make up the difference. Of course the children will have to wait until they return to their time and get some good snacks without sand. Ref. Gen 1:26-28, 6:1-8, Rom 1:16-32.

Day 2 (Israel before Jesus’ Time): Lots of rules, so the cook will always follow the recipe (which is much better than yesterday!) Perhaps a leaven-free bread cracker? Food is certainly safe, but not prepared with a lot of love. Ref. Neh 13.

Day 3 (Jesus During Passion Week): Good food, but this time the cook is doing more than ‘just following the recipe. He has been listening to Jesus and it has transformed his baking. This is pretty extravagant stuff today. Ref. John 10:19, 40-42, 12:37-42.

Day 4 (Paul in Ephesus): Today is good day to introduce an odd ancient Greek treat. It is certainly not as good as yesterday, and we would expect Paul to eat it no matter what it was, just to honor his Greek friends and not offend them. We can always wait until we get back to our time if some of the children don’t want to be brave and try it. Ref. Acts 19:8-10, 21-41.

Day 5 (Modern Day Mission Field): Today is good day to introduce an odd foreign-country treat. It is not quite as weird as yesterday’s ancient Greek snack, but it doesn’t look particularly yummy, either. “We should all smile and eat some, no matter what it smells like, just to honor our foreign friends and not offend them. We can always wait until we get back to our time if we find we don’t really like it that much.”

Planning Timetable and Recommendations

Snacks must be planned in time for the cooks to purchase supplies and cook. Please have the snack plan complete one month before VBS.

All “Time Machine” snacks must be edible so that the brave little boys and girls who want to show off can eat as much as they want!

We also recommend that the Tour Guides be provided a few good discussion questions about the snack to make sure the main ideas were understood. For example, “What would it be like if we had to always worry about what was in our food?” “Is it good to have rules when cooking?” “What is it like when someone cooks for you that really, really loves you? Is there a difference?”

PART 5: APPENDIXES

Appendix 1: Tour Guide Training

The Gospel for Kids

Note: Hand this out and review with all adult tour guides. They will be the ones who review each lesson daily to make sure the kids understand both the story of the Bible and the Gospel.

Easy to Understand Gospel for Kids

- 1) God is all good and created us to be all good.
- 2) But we are all selfish rebels inside, which is bad. That is why we need so many rules.
- 3) Our selfishness and rule breaking puts us in trouble with our good God, and we deserve punishment.
- 4) Loving Jesus came to change our selfish hearts to be all good, and take God's punishment for us.
- 5) Anyone who wants to stop being selfish can have their selfish heart transformed to start doing all good, and their punishment coming from God will be taken by Jesus instead.

Key Gospel "Phrases" for VBS Volunteers:

Overall Main Idea: The Bible is a single story of how God is saving us from our selfishness (sin)

Day 1) God created us to be all good, but we're selfish and rebels (i.e. slaves to sin. John 8:34, Rom 6:20)

- God is good, so selfishness and rebellion makes Him very sad (Gen 6:5-6)
- God is good, so selfishness gets us into big, big trouble with Him (Gen 6:7, Rom 6:23)
- God is good, so He must punish our selfishness (Rom 6:23)

Day 2) God gave us good rules because we're so selfish (Ex 18:20, Rom 2:13-15, Gal 3:19)

- Breaking good rules proves we're bad (selfish) (Dan 9:11, Eccl 7:20, Rom 3:10, 7:7)
- Breaking good rules gets us in more big trouble with God (Gal 3:10)
- God is good, so He must punish our rule breaking (Rom 6:23)

Day 3) But, loving God sent us Jesus to get and keep us out of trouble with God (Jn 3:16)

- Jesus will change our selfish hearts if we want (repent- Ezek 36:26, Jer 24:7, Ps 51:10, Jn 3:3)
- Jesus punishment can count for us if we want (forgiveness- 1 Cor 5:21, Gal 3:13)

Day 4) Jesus' followers obeyed and told others how He came to get them out of trouble with God too.

- Jesus can transform their selfish hearts also. (2 Cor 5:7, Eph 2:8-9)
- Jesus' punishment on the cross can be for them also. (Rom 5:1-2, Acts 2:22-24; 38-39)

Day 5) Followers today obey Jesus and tell others how He came to get them out of trouble with God too

- Jesus can transform their selfish hearts also. (2 Cor 5:7, Eph 2:8-9)
- Jesus' punishment on the cross can be for them also. (Rom 5:1-2, Acts 2:22-24; 38-39)

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Tour Guide & Tour Guide Assistant Responsibilities

Tour guides are small group leaders that will lead the same small groups of children to each activity through VBS week. Each guide should have at least one assistant.

Purpose of Tour Guides & Assistants

- Make sure kids understand what they are seeing through the week. (in context of Gospel)
- Responsible for kids' safety, Christ's ambassador to kids and family.
- Key point of contact for parents. (Hand out cards w/ contact info for parents?)
- Understand the "Sharing the Gospel with Kids" sheet and be able to communicate the ideas. "Sharing the gospel"
 - We want to encourage believing, repenting and following Jesus.
 - Don't want to discourage "decisions" but want to be careful. (very young)
 - Acceptance of Christ is not a "group event", but rather individual discussions.

Things to know

- No phones/texting except in an emergency (have leaders numbers in TG packet)
- Dress modestly; You are an example to the children (Longer shorts, looser shirts, etc.)
- Daily Schedule (starts at 8AM) and where to go for each even.
- All hands meeting at 8AM sharp
- Kids start to come at 8:15
- We'll provide: wipes, sharpie, name tags (for kids), name tag for you (pin-on), clip board w/ notes page, schedule sheet, Gospel sheet, sign-in sheet, contact sheet,

Prep Work

- Use colored bandanas to help keep your kids, and create your Bandana Holder. It can be a dowel, an umbrella, a tall hat, etc. It just needs to be higher than your head so kids can see it easily.
- Bring a Travel Bag – a backpack, small luggage, etc to carry with you through the day to hold supplies.
- Familiarize yourself with 'Gospel for Kids' – Memorize the key phrases for each day.
- Create Contact Cards to give to parents on Monday (Include your name and phone number as well a contact information for church leadership and the office).
- Have fun! Be creative – business card size, whatever you would like to do.

During VBS

Before Church Time

- Greet children and their parents as they enter the sanctuary (you will have an assigned meeting place in the sanctuary.)
- Hand parents contact card (Monday only)
- Sign Children in; Ask who will be picking the child up at the end of the day and write it on the Attendance Sheet.
- Pass out Name Tags
- Take Attendance. Know the number of children in your group to give to the snack staff.

During Church Time

- Participate in singing and motions. You are the example to your kids.
- Encourage children to participate in singing, sit quietly during story time, etc.
- Discourage wild horseplay. You are responsible for all the children in your care.

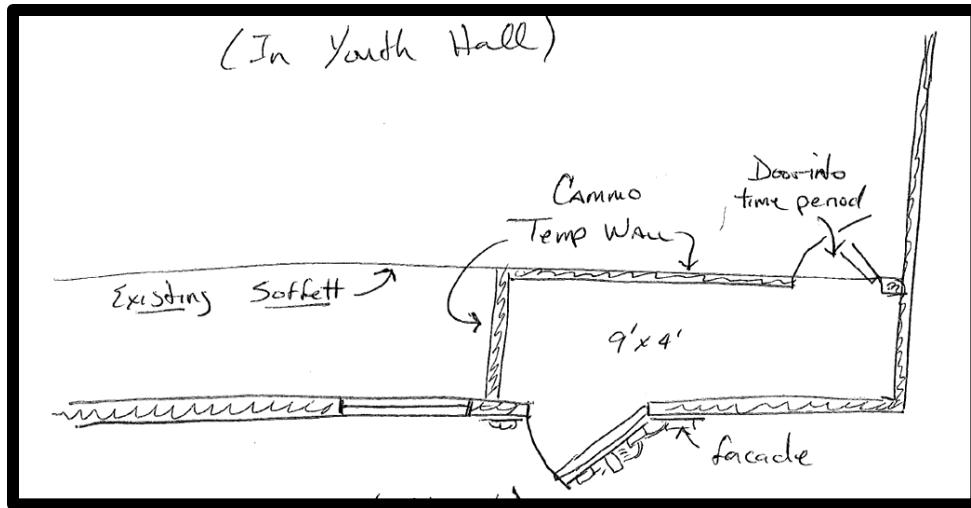
During Travel Time

- Lead children to the destinations according to the Schedule and Movement Plan
- Listen as the lessons are being presented. Take notes of key points that come up through the day. Keep interest and ask questions.
- Help with Snacks, Crafts and Games as the Department Leaders ask you to.
- Lead children in Small Group discussion according to your notes and the provided Summary Page.
- Hand out Time Portal Tickets at entrance of Time Portal. Collect Tickets just inside Time Portal (use your discretion – don't let the kids take the tickets home.)
- Play up the travel fun and comfort them that they will be safe (especially the younger children).
- Build Relationships – Because the Tour Guides and Assistants are with the same group all week, you will have the best opportunity to really connect with the children. Please take advantage of this and let the kids know you are happy to be spending the week with them. Show them how much God loves them!

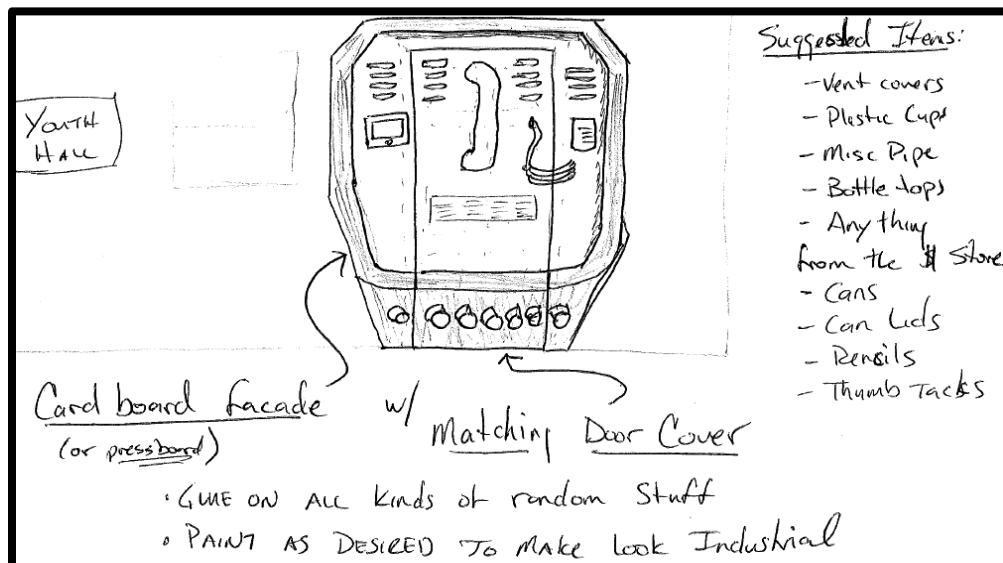
After Children Leave

- Write out Name Tags to prepare for the next morning. (Markers and name tags will be provided)
- Prepare for tomorrow's chaos
- Pray for each child specifically

Appendix 2: Time Portal Design Drawings

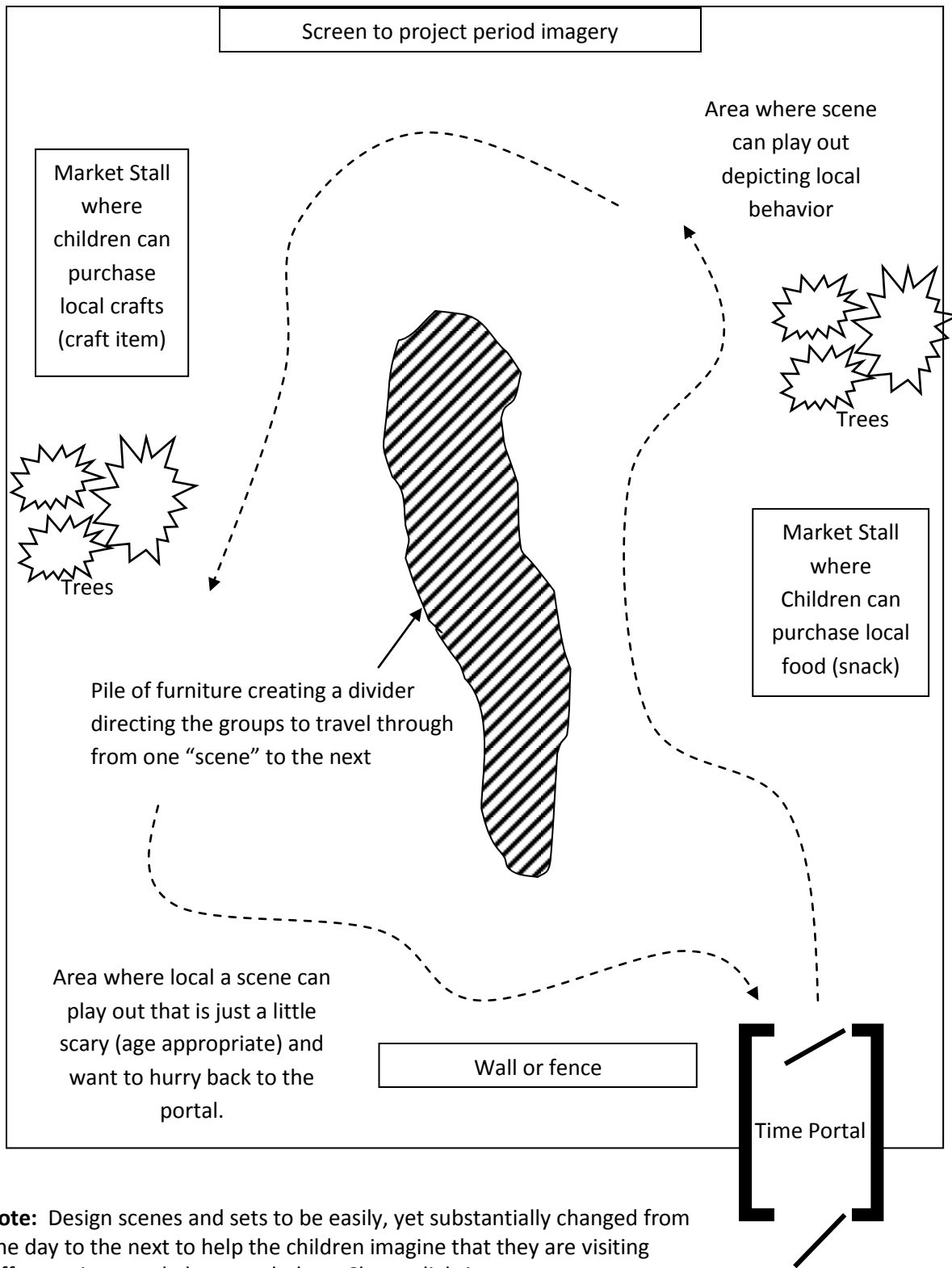


Time Portal Drawing #1: A view looking down on the corner of a room turned into a “time portal”. Two temporary walls are erected to form a small room capable of holding 20 kids. The room was lined with black paper, a black light, strobe, and smoke machine installed to create a “time travel” experience. Groups are escorted in to the chamber and the door closed. The leader had the kids count down from 10, the strobe goes out and the inner door opens to allow kids into “Noah’s time”.



Time Portal Drawing #2. A view of the entrance to the time portal. The door to the room was covered with a cardboard or plywood façade with miscellaneous items glued and painted to make it look like anything except a regular door. Lights and buzzers can also be added for additional effect. The goal is that the kids are excited and even a little nervous to go in. It’s a time machine after all. A guard is posted to make sure all required time-travel rules are followed.

Time Portal Drawing #3: "Time Portal" Room Example Layout



Note: Design scenes and sets to be easily, yet substantially changed from one day to the next to help the children imagine that they are visiting different times and places each day. Change lighting, temperature, direction of travel and even smell to create each illusion.

Appendix 3: Church Announcement (Time Portal Escape Skit)

Note: This is a fun, short skit to announce the theme and build excitement during church service. Use 2-3 weeks prior to VBS start date.

Characters: VBS Announcer (A), Portal Guard #1 (PG1), Portal Guard #2 (PG2)

Scene: Announcer is just starting a church-wide announcement when excited portal guard runs up to him, pulls him aside away from the podium. (but not the lapel mic so everyone can still hear).

PG1: (running in and up to the Announcer; pulls him aside slightly to guard the conversation) "I'm so sorry to interrupt, but we had an escape."

A: "What do you mean? "

PG1: (trying hard to avoid any blame) "We were testing out the time portal for VBS, just like we were told, and we went back to Noah's time to survey the town, just like we were told,... to make sure it would be safe to take the kids for VBS, just like we were told."

A: "Didn't you post a guard when you came back out?"

PG1: "We did, just like we were told, and nobody from the present has gone in to another time period unauthorized."

P: (looking over his shoulder at congregation seeming to apologize and needing just a moment) "Oh dear. I meant that we need a guard on the inside to keep people from the past from getting out into our time period."

PG: (pauses in confusion, then the light bulb comes on) "Oohhh...."

A: "Who escaped?"

PG1: "We think it as Noah's eldest daughter-in law. She must have followed after us and found the portal opening."

A: "What date did she come from?"

PG1: "It was one day before the flood. We've got to find her quickly, because their loading the boat, and if she doesn't get aboard... well... 1/3 of all humanity will never have be born."

PG2 (Running and very out of breath, totally ignoring the congregation and unaware there is a church service at all); "We found her! We found her! She's just sat down to a pulled pork sandwich at Ribs. I don't think she's going anywhere."

PG1 (not running, but fast walking over to PG2 and together out the door): "We were supposed to put the guard on the inside of the portal..."

PG2: "Oohhhh... Hey what's going on in here? Is it time for church or something?"

A: (to the congregation): "Please don't worry, they will have all these little bugs worked out before VBS starts in two weeks."

Appendix 4: Sample Church Time Order of Worship

Note: Older children are helping announce the songs and lead worship. Their names are Joy, Abi, Micaiah and Noah. Time management is important as there is a lot going on, and church time must finish on time to get the first group into the time portal. Adults are helping with storytime (Leta) and the sermon (Pastor Frank). Lisa is our travel guide giving a short safety brief about the time period being traveled to. “Use caution children when traveling in Noah’s time. There is a lot of mean and evil people. Stay with your travel guide at all times, and if you get separated, make your way back to the time portal quickly.”

Day three Order of Worship

8:50 Go out and meet the kids (all available workers)

8:55 START: Greeting/announcements

(JOY-WELCOME BACK-GOD CREATED the UNIVERSE)

Name ONE THING you remember SO FAR from VBS (hear several)

(Intro to GOD is Great)

Name ONE THING ABOUT GOD

PRAYER: You are great! Thank you for.... Please...

8:57 Song (God is Great)

(ABI- REMEMBER WHAT WE DO IN CHURCH) Hi Everyone!

Name ONE THING that we do during “Church” time at VBS? (hear several)

- Sing together to God
- Pray together to God
- Hear God’s Word
- Listen to a story about God

(Intro to Jehova Jireh)

Name ONE THING that God provided Israel (10 Commandments- RULES)

WHY RULES? (They had sin in their hearts)

PRAYER: Father, thank you for providing all our needs, especially a new heart!

9:00 Song (Jehovah Jireh)

(MICAIAH- REMEMBER YESTERDAYS Lesson- RULES)

Name ONE THING about the Games you played (let them answer- RULES!!!)

Why do we have to have SO MANY RULES?? (there is SIN in our hearts too!)

(Introduce God of Wonders)

Can our great God, who made the universe and all the galaxies, and knows even every hair on your head...
can this GOD OF WONDERS fix our sin problem? (YES!!)

Let’s sing about our God of Wonders

9:03 Song (God of Wonders)

9:06 Scripture and Sermon “Behold the Lamb of God” (Pastor Frank)

(NOAH introducing Bridge to VBS Anthem)

WE have a new part of the VBS Anthem to teach you. Part about Jesus...

9:11 Song (Bridge to the Anthem)

(JOY- Introduce Counting on God)

Will we ever be able to obey all the rules? **(NO!)** It is so hard with sin in our hearts to be obedient! It’s like a fight, but not physical. It’s a battle in our hearts!

We MUST COUNT ON GOD, and let Jesus win this fight over our selfishness & sin

9:13 Song (Counting On God)

9:15 Storytime (Leta)

(ABI introducing Children of God)

With Jesus, we can be children of God again. We don't need to be:

- Controlled by our sinful hearts
- Constrained by rules

We can start to live just like God created us for... as Children of God!

9:23 Song ([Children of God](#))

(MICAIAH- Introduce Lord I lift)

Lets sing to God and praise Him for sending Jesus so we could be His children again!

Let's Lift Our Lord's Name on High!

9:23 Song ([Lord I Lift Your name on High](#))

9:25 Offering (Noah -holding up the basket)

Remember that Part of worshiping God, is letting Him use our **time, talent and treasure** to spread His Good News about Jesus.

Let's pray asking God to give us a great opportunity to share what Jesus has done with others! Bring your change in the next couple days to help others get new hearts too.

PRAYER: Thanks for giving us so much... Please give us a heart to share your Good news and an opportunity too.

(ABI introducing I Need a New Heart from God)

9:28 Song ([I Need a new heart from God](#))

9:30 Closing Prayer (ABI)

PRAYER: Keep them safe... teach them lots...

9:30 Travel Briefing (Lisa)

9:35 END

Appendix 5: Daily Group Rotation Schedule

Note: This schedule is for 64-96 kids in 8 tour groups (tour groups A, B, C, etc.) Keep groups about 8 and no more than 12 children. The time portal must be able to handle 2 groups at a time in this configuration.

Group #	<u>A & B</u>	<u>C & D</u>	<u>E & F</u>	<u>G & H</u>	<u>Preschool</u>	<u>Parents</u>
	<u>Younger Group</u>	<u>Younger Group</u>	<u>Older</u>	<u>Older Group</u>		
8:45 - 9:35	"Church" Time					
9:40 - 10:00	Time Portal	*Snack	Games	*Crafts		
10:00 - 10:20	*Crafts	Time Portal	*Snack	Games		
10:20 - 10:40	Games	*Crafts	Time Portal	*Snack		
10:40 - 11:00	*Snack	Games	*Crafts	Time Portal		
11:00 - 11:20	Small Group Discussion in Sanctuary in Snack Location at Craft Location in Sanctuary				Time Portal 11 - 11:15	Time Portal 11:15 - 11:30
11:20 - 11:30	Closing Time in "Church"				Church Time?	

Older Groups can mentally shift into discussion without physically moving to a new location.

*Encourage potty breaks during events that are near bathrooms.

Invite Parents to return at 11:15 to go through Time Portal each day.

First Day Schedule:

- Church opens 2 hours before VBS begins.
- Consider having a short, mandatory, all-hands meeting 1 hour before VBS begins.
- Registration opens 30 minutes before VBS begins.

Daily All Hands Meeting

Prior to the beginning of activities each day, it is recommended that leadership hold a short meeting for all leaders and helpers. Meeting can include:

- Hear and respond to any last minute problems or questions.
- Relay a motivating testimony or story from a past VBS or the preparations for this one.
- Review the big idea for the day.
- Pray for workers, kids, families; the power of the Gospel to save, etc.

Appendix 6: Five-minute Sermons

Notes by Pastor Frank Malizzo

VBS Day 1 Sermon: "In The Beginning"

First words Bible In the beginning" ..

- So, when was that?., before you were born; parents born; before telephones, cars, dolls, toy trucks., before your dog, horses.. Before this building, rocks outside, mountain...
- God was before everything... and He made everything

First He made light .. separated light / darkness., created day/night

Second... skies,

Third... land & seas... plants / trees, from grass, to yellow flowers, tangled vines, giant redwood trees

Fourth... sun / moon / stars

Fifth... swimming creatures (dolphins, lobsters, swordfish) .. flying creatures (doves, pigeons to owls, hawks, pterodactyls)

Sixth... land animals (Tyrann. Rex, lions and dogs, hamsters and cows)... humans

- Placed Adam & Eve in beautiful garden... food to enjoy, successful work to do...

What He made was good.

- Nothing ever had to die... no being mean... no selfishness... no bad things said ... no sin!
- He created humans all/good., nothing bad... just like He is all good...
- He is very good.. He loves us... loved everything that He had made, enjoyed it!

This is how everything started out, in the beginning...

VBS Day 2 Sermon: "God's Law"

After the flood of Noah's time, God began to work again to help people remember Him, and not forget. Through one man, He grew a nation of people. That nation was meant to follow God, and show the world what He was like. That nation was called Israel. He gave laws to that nation, so that they could always remember Him, and not forget how to love and serve Him.

The problem was that sin in their hearts made them not want to do what God said. His law - His rules - were there to try to hold back their sin. Part of these rules that He gave them were called the Ten Commandments.

Moses was the leader of Israel at that time. God called him to go up on the mountain. There, God spoke to him and gave him these Ten Commandments.

They are... (Exod. 20:3-17)

1. You shall have no other gods before Me - He is the only God who made everything
2. do not carve idols - little statues.. people would worship.. but God can't be seen
3. speak God's name in an evil way - our hearts get mad, want to say things we shdn't '
- 4 keep one day each week holy to God - b/c can't go whole week and forget Him
5. honor father and mother - hearts want to rebel, be disobedient
6. murder - get mad in our hearts... start to hate.. Need law to stop us.
7. man cannot be in love with a woman besides his wife; woman ... - hearts
8. steal - hearts would want to take things that are not ours
9. lie - hearts want to change the truth, when it is not what we want
10. not be hungry for other people's things - goes deeper than stealing, to problem of heart...

God gave us rules b/c we have sin in our hearts ...

- Our hearts are evil and we would murder, if laws didn't help restrain us ...
- But Law still-not-enough to change our hearts ... (Dt. 6:24, 7:12, 10:12-13)
- laws given for their good, to provide for them

(God won't flood world again b/c He promised... part of God's work is laws ... Rules are not final ...)

VBS Day3 Sermon: "Jesus is Here!"

For many, many years, the people of Israel tried to keep God's laws. But they could not, because of the sin in their hearts. They were sad that they kept breaking God's laws. They wanted to be different.

They wanted to love God well, and obey what He said. But they needed to be changed - changed from the inside. They needed someone to rescue them, and heal their bad hearts.

And so, they waited. They waited for many so long years. Many of the people of Israel died still waiting. Then one day, Someone came..! This was Someone who could rescue them.

This was Someone who could heal their bad hearts. His name was Jesus, and He was God's Son. He came to earth to ... (give them new hearts / heal them / forgive them for their sin, and make them new ...) ... Rescue them.

Jesus walked among the towns and the villages. He taught the people, and showed them how to obey God. He did miracles.

One time there was a man who was paralyzed ... couldn't walk .. couldn't even move his legs. Four of his friends carried this man. They brought him to Jesus. Jesus said to the man ...

Mt. 9:2 - "your sins are forgiven Then He also healed the man, and made him walk again. The people were amazed at this. Some were afraid, because they didn't believe in Jesus. But many saw that God was at work, and they had hope, and they praised and sang to God!

Jesus came to forgive our sins and give us new hearts...

Ref: Jn. 1:29 - "behold the lamb of God ...", Lk. 19:10 - "to seek and save the lost ..."

VBS Day4 Sermon: "Jesus is Crucified"

Jesus came to give people new hearts... heal them, love them, and save them from their sin, but we know that some did not believe Him or follow Him. Especially the Jewish leaders... they were often embarrassed by Him, because He did not obey their rules. So they hated Him, and had Him killed. This is what they did...

He was arrested by Roman soldiers, and they whipped Him, and made fun of Him and beat on Him., and then put nails in His hands and feet to hang Him on a wooden cross. He died for the sins of the world. He died so that your heart could be changed... He died so that you could turn from sin, and be made new...

His followers were confused, and very, very sad... And He was dead for 3 days ... but do you know what?! He did not stay dead!

He rose from the dead, and He showed Himself to His followers. They saw that He was alive, and they were so glad! They hugged Him, and thanked God for Him...

Later, Jesus went back to Heaven... and His followers, they began to tell everyone about Jesus - that He died for sins, and He could change their hearts...

One day, one of those followers told a large crowd of people all about Jesus

[paraphrase]

... "through Jesus of Nazareth .. God did His miracles and wonders... He did those things right here where you live, just as you yourselves know. This Jesus was killed, according to the plan of God. You nailed Him to a cross. You put Him to death But God raised Him up again since it was impossible for Him to be held in the power of death ...

"... now, turn from your sins, and believe that Jesus is God's Son; be baptized in water, to show that God has forgiven you..."

That day, there were 3,000 people who believed this message, and began to follow Jesus. His followers continued to tell everyone that they could about the good news that Jesus had died for their sins.

Those who believe and turn from sin become children of God.

VBS Day 5 Sermon: "Go and Tell"

After Jesus was killed on a cross, and rose from the dead ... His followers began to tell everyone, that their sins could be forgiven, and their hearts could be changed.

Paul was one of those followers. He had been changed in a BIG way. And He was willing to do anything ... to tell people all about Jesus!

This is exactly what Jesus wants His followers to do. Now that He has forgiven them, and given them new hearts, He wants them to tell others about Him.

The last thing that Jesus said before He went back to heaven (These last word must have been very important).

[<>] Imagine that you have a good friend. This friend has to move away, and you know that you will not see them for a very long time, maybe even for the rest of your life.

Do you think that you would want to say something special to them? Do you think you would want to tell them the things that were the most important to you...?

Well, that's how it was with Jesus. These are the last words He spoke to them, and they were the most important to Him: He wanted them to teach others about Him, so that they could become His followers, too!

So, that's what we do ... we tell our friends and our classmates at school, our families, and the people on our sports teams, and everyone, that Jesus died for our sins..

That is what Paul did ... that is what Jesus wanted... and that is what Christians do! Will you tell others about Him? You can bring them to church... or invite them to Bible Club at your school ... or you can just tell them the things you've heard this week, about how Jesus died on the Cross ... how He can take our bad hearts and forgive them, and make them new.

VBS Friday Night Celebration Sermon: "Jesus Is Alive"

Jesus came to give people new hearts.. save them from their sin .. but we know that some did not believe Him or follow Him. Especially the Jewish leaders .. they were often embarrassed by Him, because He did not obey their rules. So they hated Him, and had Him killed This is what they did ...

He was arrested by Roman soldiers, and they whipped Him, and made fun of Him and beat on Him .. and then put nails in His hands and feet to hang Him on a wooden cross. He died for the sins of the world. He died so that your heart could be changed... He died so that you could turn from sin, and be made new.. His followers were confused, and very, very sad... And He was dead for 3 days ... but do you know what?! He did not stay dead!

He rose from the dead, and He began to show Himself to His followers.

The day that He rose, He showed Himself first to some of the women that came to His tomb.. later He appeared to two of His followers walking on the road to another village .. At the end of that day, as many of them were gathered... they were talking very excitedly about all that had happened that day. Jesus suddenly appeared among them

[Lk. 24:26-43]

They praised God that He was alive!

Later, Jesus went back to Heaven... and His followers, they began to tell everyone about Jesus - that He died for sins, and He could change their hearts...

Today, Jesus still lives, to change the hearts of those who will ask Him. Will you ask Him to make you new? Will you turn away from those sins and selfish things that you know are not God's desire, and ask Him to lead you now, and forever..?

Appendix 7: Story Time Stories

Written by Ashley Proctor from Mountain Christian Church in Cedar Crest NM

Day1

Character: Adataneses, wife of Japheth, Noah third son.

Oh hello there! Do any of you know where I can find the time travelers? I'm supposed to meet them here....oh YOU'RE the time travelers! Oh I'm so glad! You all seem so very nice! Although, you are dressed kind of funny.....what's this thing here? A t-shirt? Looks horribly uncomfortable. Well anyway, my friends, it is so nice to be around so many smiling faces! It's not like that where I'm from. The people are.....well, really, we've got to start from the beginning.....why don't you close your eyes. Yes, yes everyone....

Close your eyes and imagine nothing. That's right- imagine no trees, no colors, no animals, no sun, no people. Imagine there's no countries. It isn't hard to do....nothing to kill or die for, and no.....hmmmm.....bats. Yes- in the beginning, there was nothing that we see. There was only GOD.

And God said, "Let there be LIGHT" and there WAS light! Listen now, this is amazing. Anything I make, I've got to use my hands to do it. Watch what happens when I try to create something with my voice: "Let there be BIRTHDAY CAKE!".....nothing. But God spoke, and created the sun, the earth, giraffes, flowers, water, bumblebees, trout, dinosaurs.....ALL with His voice!

Then, HE said, "Let's make Man in our image". Why did He say "let's" and "our"? Yes that's right- 3 persons make up our God- the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! And isn't it neat that out of ALL the things God made, He chose humans to be the ones to display His image? That's right- not the majestic mountains, the roaring ocean, the beautiful flowers.....US!

Now guess what He did next. Did He say "Let there be a guy....with big arm muscles and tiny legs!". No? NO! He picked up some dirt that He'd made, formed it into the shape of a guy, just like you might do with play-dough. He formed every little part of him with His HANDS. And then? He breathed LIFE into him, and named him Adam! Get this- he let this guy give names to all the animals He'd made! He also took a part of this man and used it to form a woman. They all had a great time together, till one day when Eve (the girl) decided to listen to a lie Satan told her about God. That day, she chose to believe that God was trying to keep her from being like Him and having all the freedom she wanted, so she would disobey the one rule He'd given her. She talked Adam into doing the same thing.

This was a sad day. Until now, God had walked and talked all day with Adam and Eve. They had fun all day together, and Adam and Eve never fought or hurt each other. But now, they couldn't be in close friendship with God anymore. See....God is a consuming fire...completely holy. Anything that comes into His presence that's not holy gets burned up. And Adam and Eve were not holy anymore. I guess God could've just burned them up right there, right? But He loved them, and He had a plan.

God told Adam and Eve that since they couldn't be in close friendship with Him anymore, things were going to get bad. And they did. Adam had to work very hard to farm the land, Eve had lots of pain giving birth, they fought, their kids fought. In fact, one of their kids killed another! And I hate to say it, but things have only gotten worse. This makes sense, actually. See, remember when God created Adam and Eve in His image? Well, every person who was born from Adam and Eve (and that's EVERYONE) was born after Adam's image. What's the difference? Anyone know? That's right- SIN. Adam was born with no sin, but chose to place it on himself when

he disobeyed God. Now, all his kids, and their kids, and their kids, and their kids.....all people, are born with sin in their hearts.

Now, where I'm from, NO ONE cares about God. People steal from each other, lie to each other, kill each other. Nowhere is safe. No one ever cares to help anyone else. No one ever even apologizes. There's only one man, who's actually in my family, who remembers God. Lately, though, people have been saying he's crazy. He's got this idea in his head that water's going to fall from the sky, fill up the whole earth, and demolish everything! So he's building aum.....a.....boot. Is that what he called it? A big thing that's supposed to ride on top of water. What's that you say? Oh a BOAT. Yes-that sounds right. He says God told him to build it so that when the water comes, Noah, his family, and some animals will survive. Well I'm not so sure about all this, but he's working on it right now if you'd like to come see it. Just keep your distance from the people. They are pretty mean and nasty, since they've all forgotten about God.

Day 2

Character: Baara – wife of Shaharaim.

Hello everyone! You must be the time travelers! Where did you all travel yesterday? What did you see? Who did you meet? (Let some kids actually answer)

Well, as you might expect, even after all that had happened with Noah and the flood, the people on earth STILL forgot all about God! So this time, God decided to take a certain family that would belong to Him. He would show them who He was and let them walk with Him in a way no one else in the whole world could. They would get to experience marvelous things, and through them, God would show everyone on earth who He was.

So God picked out one man, Abram, and made a promise to him. He told him that he would have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky! He also changed his name to Abraham. Does anyone know what Abraham means? It means "Father of a multitude", and that's exactly what God made him. He gave him and his wife a son, and that was the family He chose to make His own on earth.

The family grew so big that they were called a nation, named after Abraham's great-grandson: Israel. These are my people! We've had so many adventures with God! While the Israelites were living in Egypt, they became slaves of Pharaoh, the ruler. They worked SO hard and were treated very badly. But God had a glorious plan to free them. He used Moses, a man who was a little scared of being a leader and not very good at speaking, to get the whole nation out from under Pharaoh's rule. God showed the Egyptians and the Israelites that He really was in charge by sending crazy plagues of all kinds. Imagine thousands of frogs bouncing around our whole city, or total darkness covering the land! Imagine all the animals just suddenly dying, or an entire river turning into blood! Who can do these things? Only God! When Pharaoh finally released the Israelites from his power, God split a sea right in half and let them walk right on the sea floor through to the other side! He was leading them to a land where He planned to bless and prosper them.

While on their journey to this land He had promised to give them, God gave Moses 10 rules to give to the people. These rules were ways of living that were totally different from the ways the people in the rest of the world lived. They included things like not worshipping anything but God, not stealing from others, and honoring their parents. By obeying them, the people would display God's image to the world, which actually is what God creates us to do. You guys know about Adam and Eve, right? Now what do you think the Israelites did with these rules? Do you think they obeyed them? Maybe sometimes....but mostly, they disobeyed every single one. Over

and over and over and over....

Did God not know this would happen? Of course He knew! God planned to use even their disobedience to bring them to Himself! Every time a person broke God's law, they were punished or they had to find something else to take their punishment for them...like an animal that hadn't earned any punishment of its own. After breaking the rules over and over and over, we've realized how lost we really are, and how much we need a rescuer. Thankfully, God has promised us exactly that- a rescuer-a messiah-a savior! He's going to come and take away our punishment somehow. He's going to crush our enemies. He's going to bring light, and heal the broken hearted. He's going to make us able to display God's image to the world again, and live with Him just like Adam and Eve did before they disobeyed! We. Can't. Wait.

So this is where we are right now - waiting. Waiting for the Rescuer God promised us. Waiting for the time when we won't have to worry about how many times a day we break His perfect law. Waiting for a time when we can be with Him again, like Adam and Eve were. We try SO hard to obey Him and draw close to Him; but you know, I'm starting to wonder if we even have the ability to do that. Our sin stands like a wall between us and Him. Time Travelers, what you're about to see is a group of people who have seen and experienced incredible things that God has done, and yet they still can't obey Him. They....WE....desperately need to be saved from our sin. But how?

Day 3

Character: Adina, daughter of Doron

Well hi there, Time Travelers! I hear you've been traveling a lot the past few days. Tell me- where have you been? (let the kids answer)

So you got to see my people a few hundred years ago, huh? Wow. I wonder if you met my great, great, great grandma....Anyway, I hear that you're traveling back to Jerusalem today, where I live. Let me tell you...we've got some crazy things going on.

See there's this man from Nazareth, which is this junky little town, but he's doing the most amazing things. He's healed a guy that couldn't walk, given sight to a blind man, and I've heard He's even brought a couple dead people back to life! He's making all the chief priests and Pharisees around here really mad, because He won't obey their rules! I've heard Him read the scriptures and speak about God before. He seems to really know what he's talking about.... even more so than the Pharisees with their years and years of training. It's as if...I don't know....as if He wrote the scriptures Himself. He speaks about God as if He really KNOWS Him, in a way that none of us do.

Some people say He's just a man that people like to talk about. Some of the Pharisees say that He's evil, trying to lead people away from God. Some people are saying He's a prophet. We haven't had one of those in about 400 years! Well, besides this weird guy that eats bugs...his name is John. He started telling people all about Jesus before He even showed up; and so far, everything He's said about Him has been true! John says He's the messiah we've been waiting for! Most of the religious leaders around here don't like that. They've made up more rules for us to follow than we can even count. But Jesus isn't worried about obeying them. I've heard that He's even said that they don't even know the Father. You can imagine how they reacted to THAT. I've even heard rumors that some of them are trying to get rid of him somehow. A lot of people are afraid of the Pharisees. They hold so much power, acting like God's police officers. So, some of my friends will only follow Jesus secretly. I must say,

the things He says are so incredible, and so different from everything we've heard from the Pharisees that people can't help but be captivated by Him.

The most amazing thing I've heard Jesus say is 4 simple words: "Your sins are forgiven"! Boy, did THAT ever rile up those Pharisees! They say Jesus is making Himself out to be God, since only God can forgive sins. But I'll tell you this - Jesus said these words to a man who simply believed Jesus could heal him. He wasn't at the temple offering a sacrifice for something wrong that he did. If Jesus really can forgive ALL our sins without us having to make sacrifice after sacrifice after sacrifice at the temple, our lives are changed forever! I can't imagine what it would be like to live without all the guilt of my sins that I do over and over every day!

If Jesus really is the messiah that God promised to send, we are on the verge of being able to walk with God again, like Adam and Eve did! If He is who I think He is, He's going to somehow change us so that we can once again reflect God's image to the world. I don't know how He's going to do it, though. We'd have to basically be made into totally new creatures.....

Well, why don't you go see for yourself what's going on in Jerusalem right now? It sure is an exciting time!

Day 4

Characters: Sisters Martha and Mary

Time Travelers! Where are the Time Travelers? I MUST find them! Have any of you seen them? Any of you? Wait- what's that? YOU are the time travelers? Oh you are in for such an amazing trip today, my friends! But first, I must know something. I've heard people talk about the future....please tell me: do you know if anyone has invented a....uh....thing....that washes clothes FOR you? Does such a thing exist? Ah! Oh I can't believe it! (Freaking out about a washing machine too) You must show us this thing sometime! But for now, I've got some pretty exciting news for you!

Have you all heard of Jesus? Yes? And what have you heard about Him? (let kids answer; get to the part about resurrection). Yes, it's TRUE! Jesus was killed. The Jewish leaders thought they could get Him out of their way by saying that He was trying to raise up a kingdom to overthrow the Roman empire. He suffered so much, and died a horrible death. But He rose, and He's appeared to so many people! And now, those people are telling as many people as they can about Him and what He's done!

Of course, this is NOT what the Jewish leaders want! They're doing everything they can to try to stop people from talking about Jesus! Some people have been thrown in jail, some have been beaten terribly, and others have been killed for talking about Him. But none of this seems to stop the growing number of people who believe in Jesus as the way to the Father. In fact, that's what we call ourselves - followers of the Way.

Now, you wouldn't think that joining a group of people who are getting into so much trouble would be such a great idea, right? But more and more people are believing every day! I'll tell you- when you hear a story that came from one of His disciples, you'll want to know more. When you see the miracles they perform, you'll know there's truth in what they say. And when you see how people are truly changing into....well....something they weren't before....after becoming believers? Well, let's just say you'll be a believer yourself!

Right. Take this guy Paul, for example. Now this man was truly zealous for God and what he really thought was right. He's a Jew, and he would go after Christians and put them in jail, beat them, or kill them for believing in Jesus. He was about the scariest guy out there for Christians. Now....you're all from the future, right? Has Paul's

story made it to your time? Can anyone tell me what happened to him? (Let the kids piece together the story of Paul's conversion). And now- its crazy- but he has become one of the biggest leaders of the Way! He's been traveling all over the place preaching about Jesus. Terrible things have happened to him because of it! He's been thrown out of town after town, beaten, thrown in jail, nearly killed....and nothing stops him! I've heard that he's done some pretty amazing things too, like blinding a guy and bringing a dead person back to life! But it's not because he's so wonderful or anything. He keeps saying that the spirit of Jesus actually lives inside of him, and does these things through him. Can you imagine that? Jesus living His life through a person?

But really, that's the only explanation for what's happening where I'm from. I'm telling you- people are not the same. You see, we've been going to the temple for years and years to offer sacrifices for sins we just can't stop doing. It's a hard life we've lived because we hate our sin, but we're powerless to stop it. We've lived with guilt for so long that we spend all our time either being depressed or pointing out others' sins so that we can feel better about our own. But now, suddenly, everything has changed. We've heard from Jesus' disciples that His death on the cross replaces for all our temple sacrifices...for our entire lives! Jesus took the punishment we've earned for our sin, so we don't have to worry about sacrifices at the temple anymore! He took ALL the punishment for ALL the sins of ALL the world! Now, we have His very spirit living inside of us! We don't have to struggle with sin anymore- He's conquered it! We have no guilt anymore- The Father sees us as He sees Jesus- blameless... as if we NEVER sinned! And, we get to be WITH Him all the time, just like Adam and Eve were! And one day, we'll get to see Him and be with Him physically, FOREVER! We will never be separated from Him again!

Time Travelers; are you up for a challenge? Yes? Fantastic! Alright- you're traveling back to the time when Paul was traveling around and preaching to many of the very first Christian churches that ever existed. As you watch the people, try to pick out which ones are followers of the Way. I think you'll be able to see the difference right away. Knowing that nothing can ever separate you from God's love changes your whole life!

Day 5

Character: Daniella from Bolivia

Hola, Time Travelers! I'm truly honored to be here with you today! I'm so very glad to meet you, because YOU have changed my life! Well, really, Jesus changed my life....but He did it through you! Yes, YOU! You don't believe me? Well let me tell you my story.

A few years ago, I was only 14 and I was taking care of my own mother and all 3 of my little brothers. My dad was in prison, and my mom was very sick. I had to stop going to school so that I could work to feed myself and my family. Meanwhile, there was a gang that was trying to recruit one of my brothers. He really wanted to join. He said that they'd protect us, since my dad wasn't around. But I knew that wasn't true. Those gangs go around hurting people so that they can get what they want. I didn't want my brother to end up in jail, like my dad....but my dad had been a member of a gang too. My brother didn't believe he'd ever be anything other than a gang member. I knew that if he joined, my other brothers eventually would too.

I was so tired. We had barely enough money to feed ourselves, and no money for medicine for my mom. The pressure of it all was awful. Sometimes, I thought about running away. In Bolivia, that happens all the time. The one who's taking care of everyone just can't take it anymore, and leaves. But I couldn't do that. I've seen so many kids grow up without anyone to care for them, and I just couldn't let that happen to my brothers. So I just kept going, day by day, feeling as though there was no hope for me or my family.

But then, some people from Food for the Hungry came to live in our village. They said that they had come

because God, the maker of the universe, loves us.....yeah...LOVES us. This was pretty hard for me to believe, but they said that this God had a "big plan" for us, and that part of that plan was to change our community. Well a lot of us liked the sound of that, so we let them in.

Slowly, these people started to get to know us. They came to our home and listened as I told them of our struggles. They were able to get a doctor to see my mom and even get medicine for her! A technico came each week to check on us.

Then, they told us that a church in the mountains of a place called New Mexico wanted to help us too! I couldn't believe that people so far away from us would even know that we existed! It was the first time I wondered if maybe this God was real. Somebody from this church right here chose to sponsor my brother...the one who was thinking of joining a gang. Our technico, told him that he didn't have to grow up like my dad....he could stay in school and grow up to be anything he wanted. I could see a spark of hope in his eyes. When my mom was sick, he would get so angry that he couldn't do anything to help her. The idea that he could grow up to be a doctor gave him new purpose for his life, and he gladly agreed to stay away from the gangs so that he could receive support from his sponsor! His sponsor sent money that FH used to buy us food, clothes, and school supplies. It was so wonderful for me to not be the only one taking care of my family anymore.

FH also started a soccer program in our village! My two youngest brothers couldn't get enough of it! Instead of hanging out with gangs or people that might get them involved in drugs, my brothers were practicing soccer! We were told that our soccer balls and equipment were all sent to us from a church called Mountain Christian Church. I began to think that maybe, this God really did have a "big plan" for us.

Then, FH started working with a pastor in our village. I decided to go to a service, where I first heard about how God sent His only Son to die....to take away my sins, so that I could be with Him in heaven forever! Have you heard of such a thing? And that's not all....He wants to be in close friendship with me RIGHT NOW, in this life too! I didn't believe it at first. But then, I started noticing how people in my village were changing. Men that I'd always known as mean to their wives and kids were becoming kind. Women who had always seemed so sad and angry were finding new joy! My own family became more forgiving of each other, and seemed to be working for peace. Every time I asked someone about how they'd changed, they would just tell me about how Jesus had made them brand new!

When my brother's sponsor came to visit us, I decided that I wanted Jesus to make me brand new too. Even though I still face many difficulties, I have a new heart and I live each day with hope in Jesus. Instead of being overwhelmed with worry all the time, I pray and have peace, because I know that He's with me through it all. His strength gives me courage.

Friends, this God, who created the universe from nothing, LOVES us, and has a big plan for us all. He chose YOU, here at Mountain Christian Church, to help bring the good news of His big plan to us in Bolivia. It has changed and is changing our lives forever. Why don't you go see for yourself just a little of what our great God is doing through your willingness to help?

Appendix 8: Thematic Songs

Time Travel VBS Anthem: "God's Story"

(verse 1)

God's greatest creature'd forgotten Him, just a memory from of old
No longer reigning in their souls, their hearts grew stone cold
Everyone has this devilry, except one man God sees
Noah and the creatures saved, from a ca-tas-tro-phy! (Oh no!) a great catastrophe!

(chorus)

God made all things to be good, but inside we are bad
He gave us rules to keep us safe but we're still mean and sad
He sent His Son to pay the price and make us new again
His children now bear His great Name with joy and self-less-ness (yeah!) with joy...

(verse 2)

God's law gave Israel guidance; to stop another flood
They followed rules religiously, but hearts were filled with crud (yuck!)
God promised them a Savior King, to heal their hearts of stone
He'd come to suffer for their sin, and bring them all back home (yeah!) and bring them...

(verse 3-bridge)

Then Jesus came as a babe, as promised years before
He healed and cast the demons out, He gave hope to the poor
Most refused to hear His words, but some had eyes to see
But all those in Jerusalem watched Je-sus die that day (oh!) our Je-sus died that day!

(verse 4)

Paul came to know what Christ had done, how his debt had been paid
A model for us all to see, He trusted and obeyed
Now it's our turn to spread Good News about God's saving grace
And humbly shine as He designed, His love we will embrace (yeah) His love we will embrace!

(verse 5)

All those who are saved from sin will dine with Him in heaven
To bear his name for all to see and worship Him forever
More awesome than they'll ever know, more beauty than they've seen
Amazed at what they have become, a wonder to be seen (oh yeah!) a wonder...

Time Travel VBS Anthem “God’s Story”

Written by Val Bigger, Noah Malizzo, Colt Powell and Dakota Powell, Mountain Christian Church, Cedar Crest NM

Intro: (Dm/// A///A-C Dm/// A/// repeat)

(verse 1)

Dm C
God’s greatest creature’d forgotten Him, just a memory from of old
Bb A
No longer reigning in their souls, their hearts grew stone cold
Gm A
Everyone had this devilry, except one man God sees
Bb A A A A Dm (Dm/// A///...)
Noah and the creatures saved, from a ca-tas-tro-phy (Oh no!) a great ca-tas-tro-phy

(chorus)

Dm C Bb A
God made all things to be good, but inside we are bad
Dm C Bb A
He gave us rules to keep us safe but we’re still mean and sad
Dm C Bb A
He sent His Son to pay the price and make us new again
Gm A A A A Dm (Dm/// A///...)
His children now bear His great Name with Joy and self- less-ness (yeah!) with joy....

(verse 2)

Dm C
God’s law gave Israel guidance; to stop another flood
Bb A
They followed rules religiously, but hearts were filled with crud (yuck!)
Gm A
God promised them a Savior King, to heal their hearts of stone
Bb A A A A Dm A A A A Dm
He’d come to suffer for their sin, and bring them all back home (yeah) and bring them...

(chorus)

(verse 3-bridge)

F C
Then Jesus came as a babe, as promised years before
Bb A
He healed and cast the demons out, He gave hope to the poor
F C
Most refused to hear His words, but some had eyes to see
Bb A A A A Dm A A A A Dm
But all those in Jerusalem watched Je-sus die that day (oh!) our Je-sus died that day!

(verse 4)

Dm C
Paul came to know what Christ had done, how his debt had been paid
Bb A
A model for us all to see, He trusted and obeyed
Gm A
Now it's our turn to spread Good News about God's saving grace
Bb A A A A Dm A A A A Dm
And humbly shine as He designed, His love we will embrace (yeah) His love we will...

(chorus)

(verse 5)

Dm C
All those who are saved from sin will dine with Him in heaven
Bb A
To bear his name for all to see and worship Him forever
Gm A
More awesome than they'll ever know, more beauty than they've seen
Bb A A A A D (D/// A/// etc... End on D)
Amazed at what they have become, a wonder to be seen (Oh yeah!) a wonder...

VBS Theme: I Need a New Heart from God!

Written by Pastor Val Bigger, Mountain Christian Church, Cedar Crest NM

We have hearts that want to be selfish
Like the world should revolve around me! (no me!)
I want everyone and everything to go "MY WAY"
Just remember, it's all about me! (x2)

We have rules to constrain our selfish heart
Rules we break 'cause our hearts are sad!
Rules that keep us from forcing everything "MY WAY"
But they'll never fix my heart, it's still bad! (x2)

But I wanna heart that's new and strong
I wanna be compelled by LOVE (love?!)
I wanna have the courage to do what's right
I need a new heart from God! (that's all?) (x2)

No more "Gimme gimme gimme!"
No more "mine mine mine!"
No more "You need to do it my way!"
No more "lookie, lookie, lookie!"
No more "Me, me, me!"

Jesus help me, I wanna be free (yeah free!)
I need to be freed from me!

VBS Theme: I Need a New Heart from God!

Written by Pastor Val Bigger, Mountain Christian Church, Cedar Crest NM

(Verse 1)

E A
We have hearts that want to be selfish
E B
Like the world should revolve around me! (no me!)
E A
I want everyone and everything to go "MY WAY"
E B A
Just *remember, it's all about me!* (x2)

(Verse 2- same chords)

We have rules to constrain our selfish heart
Rules we break 'cause our hearts are sad!
Rules that keep us from forcing everything "MY WAY"
But they'll never fix my heart, it's still bad! (x2)

(Verse 3- same chords)

But I wanna heart that's new and strong
I wanna be compelled by LOVE (love?!)
I wanna have the courage to do what's right
I need a new heart from God! (that's all?) (x2)

(chorus)

E
No more "Gimme gimme gimme!"
A
No more "mine mine mine!"
E B
No more "You need to do it my way!"
E
No more "lookie, lookie, lookie!"
A
No more "Me, me, me!"
E B E
Jesus help me, I wanna be free (yeah free!) I need to be freed from me!

Appendix 9: Time Portal Skits

Written by Chris Mostrom, Mountain Christian Church in Cedar Crest NM

Day 1 Time Portal Skit: Noah's Time

Points to portray:

- 1) People live completely apart from God
- 2) People make no effort to follow God
- 3) People worship themselves
- 4) Dire consequences

Potential pitfalls for actors:

Wickedness is not pretty and is difficult to handle delicately without offending people. Actors need to deal with it in a way that gets the point across without the kids all going home telling their parents how the wicked men stabbed and murdered everyone. The point to get across is that doing what you want apart from God is not safe.

Skit setup (five actors, four if one actor plays both a villain and Ham):

<Two villains at table, gambling, drinking, whispering, acting like they are making nasty plans>

<Noah talking with a shopkeeper who sells timber>

<Ham is off scene>

{ad-lib/improv until kids are seated}

{begin skit}

[Noah] I need twelve more wagons of gofer wood delivered by the end of today.

[Shopkeeper] That can be arranged.

[Noah] The usual price?

[Shopkeeper] No, double this time.

[Noah] <reluctantly places two bags of gold on table> I will pay double, but *only* if you deliver what was agreed. Unlike last time...

[Shopkeeper] Are you calling me of cheat?!

[Noah] You cannot cheat and steal and expect no one to notice.

[Shopkeeper] Don't tell *me* how to live!

[Noah] That's just it! You will not live if you do not obey the God who created us! A storm is going to flood this earth and kill every living thing.

[Shopkeeper] Oh, there's a storm coming, Noah! The storm is *me* coming down on *you* if you don't stop telling me what to do! I obey myself—I do what I want to do—I worship no one!

[Noah] You worship yourself!

[Shopkeeper] And the happier I am because of it! I put up with you because I like your gold, but I don't have to listen.

[Noah] You must—

[Shopkeeper] —I must nothing! Go away! I'll bring your ten wagons—

[Noah] —twelve—

[Shopkeeper] —*twelve* wagons before day's end. Now get out of my shop!

<Shopkeeper grabs the two bags and storms out of shop. He joins the two villains at the table. They mutter amongst themselves>

<Noah goes off scene>

<Scene changes to the three at the table, begin when Noah is gone>

[Shopkeeper] That Noah really makes me angry! <slam fist> One day I'm going to whack him in the head with a board of gofer wood. Knock some sense into him. I just want to kill him when we starts telling me how to live. I hate him! I don't need God!

[Villain1] The sooner Noah is gone the better.

[Villain2] Hear hear! Let us drink to the death of Noah.

[Villain1] I'll get you a mug. <reaches under table, grabs a mug and a bottle marked poison, shows the crowd, pours it in the mug, laughs, hands it to the shopkeeper>

[Shopkeeper] What's so funny?

[Villain1] Nothing... I'll tell you later.

[Shopkeeper] <shrugs and lifts mug> Here's to not listening to God and doing what we want!

<they all drink, shopkeeper falls onto table dead {improv however appropriate}>

[Villain1] <rises, grabs the two sacks of gold> So much for Noah's wagons of gofer wood. I believe this is a fine day indeed. <walks away triumphantly>

[Villain2] <rises, pulls a weapon, follows> Indeed it *will* be a fine day, but not for you.

<The two villains leave>

{It is implied that Villain2 kills Villain1, but I don't think it needs to be shown}

<Noah reinters scene, shaking head sadly. Ham enters.>

<Noah's son, Ham, is gnawing on a giant ham {comedic relief moment, deadpan style}>

[Noah] My son, Ham! <hug> Were you successful in getting the rest of our supplies?

[Ham] Yep.

[Noah] <frowns> Ham, what is that you are eating?

[Ham] <studies his meal, which is obviously a giant ham, and then shrugs> ...meat?

[Noah] Looks good, Ham. We should call it something besides 'meat'.

[Ham] <continuing gnawing> I'll try to think of something. So will God really flood the earth?

[Noah] Yes. The world is overrun with evil. God has commanded it must perish. All except us are wicked: stealing, cheating, lying, murdering. There is no written law—no rules to follow! All do as they please without regard for anyone. <shakes head sadly> This is *not* how we were meant to live.

[Ham] So is there no hope?

[Noah] There is hope for us. Come, let us get back to the ark.

{end skit}

Improv guidelines for after skit / interaction with kids:

Villain1, Villain2 and Shopkeeper trying to encourage kids to do as they please and not obey God. Just begin all around kinda mean.

Noah and Ham: Encouraging kids to obey God. Ham should have his ham.

Always make sure Noah and Ham have the last word, so kids don't get confused. Perhaps have the two follow the other three to counter their actions and words.

Day 2 Time Portal Skit: in Jerusalem with Pharisees

Points to portray:

- 1) God is among the nation of Israel
- 2) People make an effort to follow God's rules, some more than others
- 3) People worship God, but still themselves too
- 4) Sin is everywhere, just not as overt

Potential pitfalls for actors:

Pharisee1 and Nehemiah have lots of dialog, but since they are supposedly writing/reading, the script can be in front of them.

Skit setup (three actors):

<Pharisee1 at table with stack of paper, writing>

<Pharisee2 wandering around acting prideful and miserable, lots of moaning and raising eyes toward heaven>

<Nehemiah intently reading a book>

{ad-lib/improv until kids are seated}

{begin skit}

<Pharisee2 wanders over to Pharisee1 and looks over shoulder>

[Pharisee2] What are you doing?

[Pharisee1] Making some new laws. Laws are good—they keep us in line. Step out of line... BAM! the hammer of justice needs to come down swiftly. See? I've already got *ten* pages of new Sabbath rules to help us better follow God's rules. <stops and looks up at Pharisee2> What are you doing? You don't look so good.

[Pharisee2] I'm fasting, to be closer to God. I know it's hard, but I want to be holy!

[Pharisee1] Yes yes! None are holier than us. Why we must be the spitting image of God. Others look at us and say, "Wow there go two, swell guys that display the image of God. I wish we were like them." <Sigh> Ahhh, I love to write laws...

<Pharisee2 waves and wanders away looking miserable>

[Pharisee1] Let me see... what other new laws should I make... OH! no tying knots on the Sabbath. Brilliant... And of course... no untying knots on the Sabbath. That just goes without saying. <chuckles> New Law 712: No adding milk to coffee, or tea. Law 713: No climbing trees... way too much work in that.

{Potentially a lot of ad-libbing can be done on the Pharisee1's part to give some comedy.}

<Scene moves>

<Pharisee2 wailing about hunger pains.>

[Pharisee2] Fasting person coming through! Make way! Holy fasting pharisee in your midst! Wow! I am *really* hungry. Starving! Starving to death! <quietly pulls out some bread> I know I'm fasting, but since I hate bread, technically if I eat it, I'm still fasting. <glances to make sure no one is watching, eats bread>

<Pharisee2 wanders over to Nehemiah>

[Pharisee2] Nehemiah, buddy! I'm fasting to be closer to God.

[Nehemiah] <doesn't look up from book> Hmmm, that's nice.

[Pharisee2] What are you reading?

[Nehemiah] The Pentateuch—the law given by God, written by Moses.

[Pharisee2] Oh, good read huh?

[Nehemiah] No, in fact it isn't! <slams book> I don't think we're doing what God commanded.

[Pharisee2] Huh?

[Nehemiah] All these new rules everyone makes. These idols all around us.

[Pharisee2] What idols? <waves away implication> Those idols and high places were torn down long ago.

[Nehemiah] Yes, but they were replaced with new ones! Everyone worships their own gods. Everyone is still doing what they want, just with the pretense of following God.

[Pharisee2] Nehemiah, please, use smaller words so I can understand. I'm fasting remember. I'm weak... but holier.

[Nehemiah] People are pretending to follow God, but they are not. They still lie, cheat, steal and murder. Some guy just tried to sell me two goat on the middle of the temple—the LORD'S TEMPLE!

[Pharisee2] Really?! <Gasp, puts hand on Nehemiah's shoulder> What price was he asking?

[Nehemiah] You miss the point. It is God's house. We are defiling it!

[Pharisee2] I think you overreact just a bit. We're the chosen people. God is pleased with us. We're much better off than those nasty pagans.

[Nehemiah] You're not listening....

[Pharisee2] Hey, I gotta go.

[Nehemiah] Where? I am trying to show you something...

[Pharisee2] I don't have time, Nehemiah. I'm headed to the temple to check on those goats, oh!... and then to the courtyard to pray out loud for all to hear. I want everyone to know how close to God I am. If only they could be as righteous as me! <stumbles off> Make way! Holy fasting Pharisee coming through!

[Nehemiah] <throws hands in surrender> No one listens. It's like no one cares! And me!? I'm not any better. I try to do the right thing, but I still mess up, and sin, and have to offer sacrifices. People act holy on the outside, but on the inside they are black with sin! Oh Lord, when and how is the Messiah to come and fix this mess!?

<Scene moves back to Pharisee1>

<Pharisee1 humming a song: *laws, laws, I love to write laws...*>

[Pharisee1] Hmmm, what else! Oh! No erasing on the Sabbath. And, of course, no writing, because those would be work and we can't work on the Sabbath. Let see what other new laws can I write... Oh... bummer. Law 749: No writing on the Sabbath. I just wrote that law. <laughs> Well well, I'll just have to erase it and add it after I am done—GAH! The no erasing law, number 748: the law I wrote before! <Slams down pen, frustrated> <pause> Well now what do I do? I can't write or erase. <Looks around embarrassed, long pause> Well... this is awkward.

<Nehemiah steps in front of children>

[Nehemiah] I *think* God is with is, at least I hope He is, but I don't think we are with God. This is *not* how we are supposed to live either.

{end skit}

Improv guidelines for after skit / interaction with kids:

Pharisee1 barking orders at kids as to what they can and can't do. Make ridiculous rules: no chewing gum, no blue pants, no giggling, etc.

Pharisee2 walking around acting prideful, moaning and wailing

Nehemiah showing kids the truth and wondering about the coming Messiah. Trying to counter what the other two are saying and doing. Perfect time to hint about the gospel fixing this mess.

Day 3 Time Portal Skit: Jerusalem with Jesus

Points to portray:

- 3) God has come down - Hope
- 4) People still make effort to follow God
- 3) People await the Messiah
- 6) Leadership is corrupt

Potential pitfalls for actors:

Heavy dialog that needs good timing.

Jesus is supposed to be off scene: doing miracles and/or teaching. Actors need to make sure the kids understand this.

Optional: Skit would be much stronger if someone (off scene) was quoting passages from Jesus' sermons. These places are marked in underlines.

Skit setup (four actors):

<Skeptic, Wonder Seeker and Follower (three friends) are gathered together talking>

<Jewish Leader is off alone, skulking about and looking angry>

<Every once in a while all will stop as if they are listening to someone (Jesus) off scene>

<The person paying the voice of Jesus occasionally speaks as the other actors stop to listen>

{ad-lib/improv until kids are seated}

{begin skit}

[Jesus] “quote from one of his sermons”

<Skeptic addresses Wonder Seeker and Follower>

[Skeptic] So what do you two think about this Jesus.

<Nod or gesture off scene, toward where Jesus is supposed to be>

[Wonder Seeker] He does some amazing stuff! WOW!

[Skeptic] Yeah? Like what have you seen?

[WS] I’ve seen stuff that would blow your mind!

[Skeptic] Like what?

[WS] See that beggar over there?

[Skeptic] Yeah...

[WS] Blind as a bat two days ago! Then Jesus spits in his eye and... BAM! now he can see!

[Skeptic] Jesus *spit* in his eye?

[WS] Yeah... or something like that.

[Skeptic] I’m not sure how I’d feel about someone spitting in my eye.

[WS] <chuckles> He was blind, what did he care?

[Skeptic] Yeah, but still...

[Jesus] “quote from one of his sermons”

<Jewish Leader sneaks over to listen in on the three friends>

[Follower] Well, I saw Jesus heal a lame man yesterday. He didn’t even touch him—he just spoke.

[WS] Yeah? <Acting competitive> Well I saw Jesus heal *two* lame men yesterday, cast out an evil spirit, and raise a person from the *dead*!

[Jewish Leader] What?!

<The others turn a little surprised and frightened of the Jewish Leader>

[JL] Raise a dead man? Ha! You're all fools! It's all trickery! Cast out demons?! Raise a dead man!? BAH!

[WS] <Shrugs> He sure looked dead to me. Jesus spoke and told him to get up. And he did!

[JL] The work of the devil! <Raise hands, make a big show> This Jesus is a blasphemer, a prankster, a charlatan. He does it for the money and power.

[Follower] Jesus doesn't look rich. And he never asks for money.

[JL] Not yet, but that's what he wants. He is turning the people away from our sacred laws and traditions—traditions that keep us holy.

[Skeptic] So why not just arrest him?

[JL] Mark my words, Jesus will get what's coming to him. And that goes for anyone else that follows that blasphemer! These false prophets have come before.

[Follower] What? You can't compare Jesus to those lunatics! This Jesus speaks with authority—true authority!

[JL] WE are the authority! Me and the rest of the Sanhedrin. Not this wandering carpenter from... NOWHERE-ville!

[Skeptic] So what are the leaders planning?

[JL] <acting very dramatic> There's only one thing to do with a blasphemer... DEATH!

<Jewish Leader stomps off scene, ending with...>

[JL] Mark my words!

[WS] <waves hand> Bah, he's all talk.

[Skeptic] Careful... the Jewish leaders may be all talk now, but you don't want to make the Sanhedrin your enemy. They have a lot of power.

[Jesus] "quote from one of his sermons"

[Follower] Even some of the leaders believe Jesus. I've spoken with a few. <point to where Jesus is> I believe this Jesus *is* the Messiah. He is here to save us.

[WS] From the Romans I hope. I've had enough of them. <spit on ground>

[Follower] Not just that... but more... I want to be different. I *need* to be different! Can't you feel it? The Messiah is supposed to change everything, including us.

[Skeptic] Yeah, but is this Jesus really the Messiah? I don't want to waste my time otherwise.

[Follower] I didn't want to say this in front of that Jewish Leader, but Jesus even forgives people of their sins.

[Skeptic] What? How? Only God can do that?

[Follower] I know, but Jesus seems to have authority not just over death, but over sin itself.

[Skeptic] No wonder the leaders hate Jesus.

[WS] Blasphemer or not, this Jesus does some amazing things. I want to see more, you know, be in on the action. I want to be there—tell my grandkids that I saw when Jesus healed the blind man! <jumping around excitedly> Oh, oh, look!, Jesus is heading for that crippled boy! Sweet leaping miracles I want to see that!

[Skeptic] And the leaders? If they find you there?

[WS] If this Jesus *is* the Messiah what could go wrong? He's here to conquer. You coming?

[Skeptic] Not me, I think I'll just watch from a safe distance.

<Wonder Seeker heads off scene>

[WS] Yeah! Bring on the miracles!

{Joking aside, the remainder of the skit is a profound moment and could really make an impact if the actors carry it with some great emotion}

[Jesus] "quote from one of his sermons"

[Skeptic] I mean... I think this Jesus is great and all too, but I think it is just too risky. There is too much cost.

[Follower] Risk or not, I'm following this Jesus. I think he knows how we are supposed to live. Jesus has the answers. I feel hope when I hear Jesus speak, something that I didn't know existed. I'm tired of the sin and the sacrifices. I hate living in fear of God's wrath. <pause> Jesus speaks freedom. I want freedom!

[Jesus] "quote from one of his sermons"

<pause>

[Follower] I've... I've got to go.

[Skeptic] You can't just run off too!

[Follower] I've *got* to go! Jesus knows how we are supposed to live, and I am going to learn from him. And I'm *not* turning back.

<Follower leaves off scene to where Jesus is>

<Skeptic is left alone, eventually turns and sadly walks away>

{end skit}

Improv guidelines for after skit / interaction with kids:

Jewish Leader cranky and angry. Trying to get the kids to tell him where Jesus is so he can be arrested, etc...

Skeptic mostly asking who this Jesus really is, doubtful of any answers kids provide

Wonder Seeker bubbling with excitement. Always eager to tell of Jesus' miracles

Follower actually sharing the true gospel: emphasize hope, new heart, change, righteousness, etc...

Day 4 Time Portal Skit: Paul in Ephesus

Actors: Paul

Jacob (young Pharisee in training)

Pharisee (with a long beard and phylactery box--absurdly and comically arrogant)

Scene opens with Paul greeting travelers as they exit time portal (as though he was walking down the street when the kids mysteriously show up).

{begin skit}

Paul: Hello. You are not from here. Are you from Galatia? <kids answer "no"> Smyrna? <"no">. Rome? I do hope you are from Rome! No? Ahhh, too bad. I long to visit those in Rome and tell them the wonderful news about our savior, Jesus. Well where *are* you from? (kids answer). Interesting. Welcome to Ephesus! It's been a hard road—I'm not sure you really want to be seen with me. I've been beaten, stoned, thrown in prison, threatened... well... as I said, it's been a hard road, but I will not be silent. I must share the good news of Jesus Christ!

<sits, directs kids toward stage>

Paul: Please sit. <wait until they are all sitting> I can see the same fire in some of your eyes. I will tell you of how Christianity has spread, not just throughout Israel, but the gentile nations as well!

{Begins to tell them about Jesus, but does not make it through a sentence before he is interrupted by young Jacob and a Pharisee entering on the stage and having a loud conversation}

Paul: <to kids> Shhhh... enemies of the cross I think. I do not fear them, but let's see what they want. May I hide among you?

<Paul hides among kids>

Jacob: But I did! I really did!

Pharisee: What?! <sighs, adjusts wardrobe> Are you still worrying about that? We have bigger problems than your feelings, like finding what that Paul traitor is up to.

Jacob: Well, something was still missing.

Pharisee: <condescendingly, impatiently> Well child, you *must* have done it wrong! Or maybe you forgot to mention some of the laws you broke. Or...

Jacob: No... My words and intentions were perfect. I did just what you said to do! I brought the right sacrifices at the right time. I helped with the right feasts at the right time. I said the right prayers. I even wore them on my head!

Pharisee: I'll bet you looked goooood!

Jacob: <wide-eyed stare a Pharisee> Ummm... wut?

Pharisee: You ever seen a miserable person? <Jacob nods> They look terrible. So looking good is very important. Take me for example. <tap his phylactery box with arrogance, big cheesy grin, knowing wink> God is pleased with my appearance... so forget about it! Say the right things, do the right things and look good spiritually. It's a package deal. You are well on your way to being an awesome leader. Don't worry.

Jacob: But I AM worried! <shaking head> Something is not right.

Pharisee: <exasperated and impatient> Like what? <pause> I got it!!! A beard.

Jacob: Huh?

Pharisee: A beard! That is your problem.

Jacob: I... don't have beard.

Pharisee: My point exactly! You know that all good Pharisees grow beards. You are just having inner turmoil because you are not quite old enough to follow that law. And because you don't look quite as good as... me. <tap box again>

Jacob: No, no, no, no! My problem is something much more than the outside stuff and the stuff that I *can* do. It's even more than the spiritual stuff you teach me.

Pharisee: <GASP!>. Young man....<finger wagging down at Jacob>

Jacob: <interrupting> I know, sir. All I'm saying is that none of that fixes...

Pharisee: ...fixes what?....

Jacob: <pause knowing that Pharisee won't like his answer> My heart.

Pharisee: Your heart?

Jacob: Yes, my heart. Even though I look good on the outside <Pharisee silently mouths “like me”, puffs his chest out a bit in pride, taps his box>, I know that behind all of these fancy clothes and looks is ugly pride. <Pharisee is obviously deflated, pretends he’s received a mortal wound, turns attention away from self, slouches, frowns, pouts with anger, etc...> It’s the sin in my heart. I can’t get rid of it. I can’t fix it.

Pharisee: <recovering> Bah! just..follow...the...law...and...don’t...worry...about....it! Now stop this babble and let’s get moving. Paul is here somewhere we’ve been sent to spy on him! <scan around, ask a child or two if they’ve seen Paul>

Jacob: <flustered> Are you even listening to me? <pauses and looks sneaky as Pharisee continues interrogating kids> And what if this *Paul* has the right answers?

Pharisee: <Jumps sky high, arms flailing> WHAT!? How dare you! Paul?! That man of contempt! That viper! That teller of falsehood! That follower of... Jesus <slowly and with a scowl, maybe puts fits in fighting stance> How dare you suggest such a thing. You’re in for it now laddy! <maybe grabs Jacob by ear> You just wait—

Paul: —stop! <gets to his feet> Stop, I’ve heard enough!

Pharisee: <turns slowly to face Paul> Ahhh! <screams/bellows and runs behind Jacob, using him as a shield>

Jacob: You’re Paul?!

Paul: The one and only, Jacob. I was just visiting with some new friends from {wherever the kids answered earlier...NM, America} when I overheard your conversation with this nice-looking <Paul possibly flicks his phylactery box?> spiritual leader.

Pharisee: <hisses, bats at Paul, then whispers to Jacob> See? I told you I looked good!

Jacob: <Trying to shake off Pharisee> Well, do you have answers? Can you tell me how my heart can be fixed? It’s like it needs to be washed or made new... or something.

Pharisee: <jump back up, tries to wave off Paul, comes between them> No! Nope! Don’t listen to him. <turning to Paul> Back! Back I say. Don’t come any closer! <wannabe karate moves>

Jacob: But I want to hear—

Pharisee: —no! Just look at him. His beard is shabby. Mine is as long as the law, and as I always say: the bigger the beard, the bigger the man. <Finish with nose air>

Paul: <reaches over and yanks beard off Pharisee>

Pharisee: Arghhh!!! <startled, feels bare face, shrieks, cries, screams like little girl, etc...> Help! Help! <more shrieking, stumbling, panic, eventually off stage... make a huge spectacle> You’ve not seen the last of me!

Paul: <wait for things to calm, then addresses Jacob> Tell me your name and where you are from?

Jacob: My name is Jacob and I was sent from Damascus to spy on you.

Paul: Damascus! Seems like a lifetime ago when I was struck with that blinding light and met Jesus.

Jacob: You met Jesus at Damascus?!

Paul: Yes, and that single moment changed my life forever. Changed my whole purpose! That is why I went from persecuting Christians to leading people to Christ. I was renewed, forgiven, redeemed—from the inside!

Jacob: But Jesus was already dead? How did you meet him? And how did He redeem you? Please, you must tell me!

Paul: Come sit with my new friends and I will tell you all. <start moving to kids and sit down while talking. Point off stage.> You know, I used to be like him... <pretend to put on the beard still in his hand, act haughty> I did my best to keep all of God's rules, but in my heart I broke them every day. I was kind to my neighbors, but in my heart I wanted to punch them all. I said the right words to pray, LOUDLY, but I really just wanted people to notice me and love me. I am so glad that God chose to show me truth. And show me how I was supposed to live.

Jacob: Well! <try to gets kids involved> Don't stop there! Tell us!

Paul: Only God can make our hearts clean and he did that through Jesus.

Jacob: What? How?

Paul: Let me first ask you a question. Is it easy to follow the law?

Jacob: No, I break the rules all the time, no matter how hard I try... or how good I look.

Paul: Exactly! And law-breakers deserve to be punished. Punished by death!

Jacob: What?! I don't know about my new friends, but you are not making me feel any better.

Paul: You will, because the price was already paid. *Jesus* chose to be the one punished instead of us. He died on the cross. After after the punishment, *death* was finished, Jesus was raised to life again so that His Spirit could live in us and replace our hearts with His. He takes all of our bad stuff and gives us all of His good stuff. You are made new and clean on the INSIDE! It's the most amazing news ever!

Jacob: Wow. That is amazing. <with wonder> Jesus chose to take my "law-breaker" punishment and wants to give me His perfect, clean, obedient, heart? Just like that?

Paul: Well, sort of just like that. It is a gift that He offers to you, but just like any gift you must take it to make it yours.

Jacob: I want this gift. How do I take it? I don't see any gift wrapping or baskets or boxes.

Paul: You take this gift by asking for it. Tell God all of the things you know about yourself - how you can't follow His good rules on your own, and how you know you should be punished, but that you also know that Jesus was already punished in your place, and that you want Him to live in you and make you like Him.

Jacob: I do believe these things. I am going to talk with God right now, Paul. Thank you for sharing with me.
<stands up with great excitement and begins to move off stage>. Thank you!!

Paul: <to kids> He's a dear boy. And don't worry about that beardless Pharisee. I'll make sure he doesn't see Jacob again. This is news is true for you all, for the world. This why my friends and I are in Ephesus now. This is why we've been to Samaria, Corinth; to Asia Minor... and are going to the ends of the Earth. I just can't wait for everyone in the world to hear about Jesus and how He makes our hearts clean and new! And how we can finally live how we were supposed to. In fact, I need to be at the Temple of Artemus to speak with some Greeks about Jesus. Enjoy your stay!

<Paul exits>

{end skit}

After skit ad-lib guidelines:

Pharisee can talk with kids about all the prayers he knows, how long his beard is, make fun of their no-beards, deny that his beard comes off, etc, and how he wonders why Paul always seems peaceful.

Jacob should be excited and talking with kids about the news Paul just shared.

Paul can talk with kids about Jesus and if they've been to Galatia (wherever) to see how the best news is spreading there.

As the three mill around, they should stay in character as they cross each other's paths, wannabe-karate and all

Day 5 Time Portal Skit: Modern Mission Field

Skit setup (three actors):

<Irving the missionary wandering through jungle, hacking with machete, swatting at bugs, drinking water from his goatskin, reading his guide on the MooHoeyHoey tribe, does not see kids as they enter>

<Steve from MooChewyChewy tribe is initially offstage>

<Member from MooHoeyHoey tribe is initially off stage>

{machete and spears should probably be fake, or kids should sign a waiver}

{ad-lib/improv until kids are seated}

{begin skit}

<Irving slaps the back of his neck>

[Irving] Bah! Nasty bugs... go away! <swat some more, take a drink from goatskin>

[Irving] It's so hot! <wipes forehead> Lord, please help me find my way and speak your words.

[Irving] <Opens guide to read, backs up towards kids, swat bugs while reading> Now, let me see. If I take this path it should lead to the river and then I follow that north to the canyon and then...

<Irving turns and finally sees kids>

[Irving] Arghhh!! <jump backward with fright>

[Irving] Sorry. You startled me. I did not expect to see all of you in the jungle. <looks around confused> Is there a *tour*... or something?

<get some responses from kids, jibber-jabber a little>

[Irving] Wait!... you're time travelers? <wide eyes, stare off into the middle distance, long pause> Wow... <shakes himself>

[Irving] Well I'm afraid you traveled to a rather dangerous jungle. You see I'm on my way to tell the MooHoeyHoey tribe about Jesus. The world is big, with many people who have not heard the good news. Have you heard the good news about Jesus? <get some responses> You have? Wonderful.

[Irving] My name is Irving. I'm a missionary. This is my first first time out by myself so I'm a little nervous, BUT I've got my guide book, a machete, a goatskin, lots of bug spray and a whole backpack of Bibles!

[Irving] Well, you are welcome to follow along, but *be* careful. The MooHoeyHoey tribe is a little picky about who they allow in their territory. Plus they have some pretty weird customs... Their language is strange also, which is why I have my trusty guide! <hold up guide>

<Pause and look around>

[Irving] It's a lot of work to come out here and find the MooHoeyHoey tribe, but God wants *everyone* to hear about Jesus and be children of God, even if they are in a jungle infested with nasty bugs.

<Irving begins to start through jungle again, but then stops and turns back>

[Irving] You know, if you want to meet the MooHoeyHoey tribe, then there is *one* custom that you *must* follow! It is very very important! Your lives depend on it! OK? <get affirmative from kiddos> The MooHoeyHoey tribe does not allow laughing! Of any kind! No giggling, chuckling, guffawing, snickering! Got it?

[Irving] <pull out guide> What?! You don't believe me? You know what my guide says they'll do if they hear you laughing? <slowly and extremely serious> They'll hang you by your toes over a pot of boiling monkey meat, *after* they stuff bananas in your ears!

[Irving] <points at kids, maybe single out one or two> Got it? Oh, you think that's funny?! Don't do it! Alright.

<point off somewhere>

[Irving] So we just take that path—

[Irving] —shhhh! <gets low> Did you hear that? Past those trees. Here comes one of the MooHoeyHoey tribe. I'll try to talk to him. You be quiet, OK? And whatever you do DON'T laugh!! You hear me! One small chuckle and we'll all wind up hanging by our toes over a boiling pot of monkey meat with bananas stuffed in our ears! <single out a kid> You ever had bananas stuffed in your ears? Yeah... NOT pleasant!

<Steve enters with spear, sees Irving and stops, remains silent with a stern, concerned look the entire time>

{this part needs to be done without a lot of pause, lots of ad-libbing here}

[Irving] <approaches Steve with arms raised> Greetings member of the MooHoeyHoey tribe! Do you know Jesus? Uhhh, wait! lemme see... <don't allow him to answer, flips through book> Ahhh! MooLoey moo woop woop bleeeeeee squeeeeeee bonk! <ad-lib this in some ridiculous way. it needs to be over the top outrageous. the kids need to be laughing hard. when in doubt, jump around like on orangutan, hoot, holler, slap the floor, etc...>

[Irving] <notices kids laughing, waves them off> What are you doing?! No laughing! That is how MooHoeyHoey talk. You want by hung by your toes over a pot of boiling monkey meat with bananas stuffed in your ears? Shhhhhh! <wait for kids to calm>

[Irving] <Approach Steve again> Jesus loves you! Oh...wait <looks at guide, more ridiculousness ensues> MooWhoey loey beepbeep blonk whooooooyoyoyo fleeeep, etc...

[Irving] <again notices kids are giggling> Arghh! What is with the funny laughing? <in a panicked squeek> Did I not warn you about the monkey meat... and the toe hanging... and the bananas?

[Irving] <back to Steve> May I visit your camp? <more silliness ensues>

[Irving] <whispers to kids> Shhhh!!! The giggling?!

<Steve gives stern look, walks around Irving, leans in close then backs away, Irving looks nervous>

[Steve] <pokes Irving with spear> You sick?

[Irving] GASP! You speak english?

[Steve] I speak little english. What you jump around like diseased monkey... just before?

[Irving] <points at book> I was speaking MooHoeyHoey. I learned from my book, Conversational MooHoeyHoey for Beginners. It got good reviews online.

[Steve] <pause, then belly laugh> Bwahaha! MooHoeyHoey?! Your style... way off! No need book to speak to MooHoeyHoey tribe! They speak little english too.

[Irving] Wait... what? English? How?

[Steve] My tribe taught them. I from MooChewyChewy tribe... down river. My name Steve.

[Irving] Greeting... wait... Steve?

[Steve] Yes, Steve. Long story...

[Irving] How did you learn english?

[Steve] Many years ago missionary come... teach us about Jesus... how to speak your language. We have joy and peace now. We used to be very savage... very dangerous.

[Irving] Really? What'd you do?

[Steve] Killed... stole... hated tribes around. And the bananas in the ears!

[Irving] <whispers to kids, gesture to ears> See?! I told you!

[Steve] We lived in fear and war, but no longer! With Jesus, we live how we should. I love to praise God. We speak to tribes around us now about Jesus. God give us courage! Opportunity!

[Irving] <shoulders slump, looks sad, mooney> So it sounds like you don't need me...

<Irving turns away to leave>

[Steve] Yes, we need you! <bear hug from behind> Much to learn about God still. You teach! <pause, gesture to kids> From tour?

[Irving] <shakes head> Time travelers... long story

[Steve] Ahhh. Oh, look! One from MooHoeyHoey tribe come.

[Irving] <pulls out guide> Oh! I can speak with them.

[Steve] <stops Irving> Better speak English... kids laugh too much.

[Irving] <turns again to kids> See?! I told you! Now, no laughing.

<Tribesman from MooHoeyHoey enters, points spear at Irving>

[Tribesman] You enemy?!

[Irving] No, no! I friend! I come to speak about Jesus and victory over sin! <offer tribesman a Bible, which they don't take yet> I will teach you about God.

[Tribesman] Why?

[Irving] To live in peace and freedom. Jesus is king of all. He is returning. I have come to show you light and to help.

[Tribesman] Ahhh! Friends! Friends trade gifts! <Takes Bible then pulls out a bowl which he hands to Irving> You eat!

[Irving] <Bowl has two pieces of food, he picks up one, studies it, whispers to Steve> What is this?

[Steve] That monkey meat.

[Irving] Monkey meat?! Ewww!!! <turns to kids, sticks tongue out, if they laugh it's ok>

[Steve] Monkey meat tastes like snake. It is custom! Must eat! Or they hang you by toes!

[Irving] <act grossed out, finally eat it, finish by licking lips and shrugging> Not bad... was that oregano on that... no?

[Tribesman] Eat other!

[Irving] <picks up what is obviously a bug> More monkey meat I hope?

[Steve] No, that big bug!

[Irving] What's this taste like?

[Steve] Tastes like... big bug. Eat!

[Irving] <choke down bug, turn to kids, make gagging sound, wipe tongue on shirt, shudder>

[Steve] Well done! Now we talk with tribe! Without kids. They laugh too much! But no worry Irving, Jesus is with us! And soon Jesus will be with the MooHoeyHoey tribe.

<Tribesman leads off stage>

{end skit}

Improv guidelines for after skit / interaction with kids:

MooHoeyHoey tribe person should ask kids questions about Jesus, Christianity, God, the Bible. This is an awesome opportunity for the kids to express and share what they've learned throughout the week.

Steve should explain what all Jesus has changed in his life. Come up with weird customs, etc.

Irving should tell stories of sharing Jesus. Emphasize how we're supposed to go into the world and share the gospel. Maybe teach kids to speak MooHoeyHoey.

TIME TRAVEL VBS INFORMATION



Where?	Mountain Christian Church in Cedar Crest, NM
When?	Monday, July 22- Friday, July 26
Time?	8:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
Who?	All kids age 3 to those entering the 5th grade.

Theme: We will travel on an incredible *journey through time* to various locations in ancient history via our very own Time Portal. We will see what made life so rotten in Noah's time, what it was like to "follow the law" in ancient Israel, and see what changed when Jesus came to walk the earth. Then we'll watch how Paul got the church started, and get a taste of how the church is growing today by visiting Bolivia, South America.

Drop off time is 8:35 AM. Drop your children off to his/her tour guide in the worship hall each morning.

Daily Schedule:

8:45-11:30: All children will congregate in the "Worship Hall" for "Children Church" to pray, hear a short Scripture, and sing songs that reflect and reinforce the main idea of the day; hear God's redemptive story watch a skit that brings the theme of the period to life and get a "travel briefing" about where they will be traveling. The travel groups will enter the "time portal" where they will experience a "local market" where they can purchase a snack and a craft from that time period, and interact with the people of the day. They will play games, snack, and do a craft as well. All groups will then congregate in the worship hall for travel debrief and closing songs.

11:30AM is **pick up time**. Please be prompt in picking up your children so our volunteer workers may have the afternoon to spend with their families.

6:30 Friday Evening BBQ: The whole family is invited to attend our grand celebration at 6:30 PM. We will have a program beginning at 6:30pm for approximately 30 minutes, and then head outside for dinner off the grill in celebration of the week.

Appropriate Dress: Although we will be traveling to different time periods, it is not necessary to any 5th Century BC clothing. Appropriate attire for running around and playing in this century is fine.

Thank you for placing your trust and the care of your children in our hands. We will do everything possible to keep them safe and secure and show them the love of Christ. If you have questions or concerns you may call _____.

For all children age 3 by July 22nd, 2013 up to those entering the 5th grade this coming fall.

For more children please list on the back. * **Required information**

Appendix 11: Graphic Designs

T-Shirt Graphic

NOTE: Ungroup the text boxes and edit as desired. Add church logo on back. Coordinate with local T-shirt printer one month before VBS start date.

Front Design (Single Color):

**JOE'S TIME TRAVEL
ADVENTURES**
The Whole Bible Story of How God is Saving Humanity

Back Design: (two Color):

**THE AWESOME
"I SAW IT ALL" TOUR OF 201X**

THIS YEAR'S TRIP SPONSORED BY:

(INSERT CHURCH LOGO HERE)

Ad Banner Design. Edit as desired and print in large size on vinyl from local or on-line printing company for display one month prior to VBS. Do not leave banner up continually. Removing it for a few days at a time will keep it noticable as people drive past.

JOE'S TIME TRAVEL TOURS

Experience the Whole Bible Story...
How God is Saving Humanity

TIME PORTAL **VBS** JULY 22-26
REGISTER TODAY: CALL XXX-3313



Children's Invite Cards.

These cards are ideal to have your Sunday school children invite other kids. Cut and paste the text boxes into a new Word document and copy three more times so four take up one side. Copy the poster (next page) onto the next page of the document (page 2) and reduce sufficiently to allow four on the page. Align all the boxes carefully and print double sided on cardstock so that each piece of paper yields four invitation cards.

Joe's Time Travel Tours VBS

Where? Your Church Name in your Town

When? Monday, July 22- Friday, July 26

Time? 8:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Who? All kids from age 3 through 5th grades.

Theme: We will travel on an incredible *journey through time* to various locations in ancient history via our very own Time Portal and see what made life so rotten in Noah's time, what it was like to "follow the law" in ancient Israel, and see what changed when Jesus came to walked the earth, then watch how Paul got the church started.

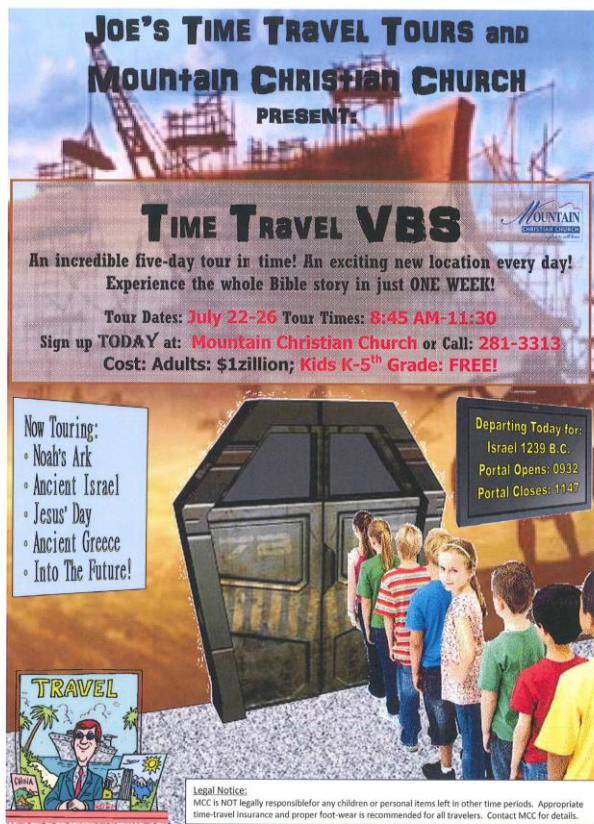
Drop off time is 8:45AM. Drop your children off to his/her tour guide in the worship hall each morning.

11:30 is pick-up time. Kids will be in the worship area ready for pick-up where you dropped them off.

6:30 Friday Evening BBQ: The whole family is invited to attend our grand celebration at 6:30 PM. We will have a program beginning at 6:30pm for approximately 30 minutes, and then head outside for dinner off the grill in celebration of the week.

Bulletin Board Poster

Copy and paste the cover into a new Word document. Be sure to add a text box containing your VBS information. Edit as desired adding church information. Here is an example:



Time Travel Tickets

Time travel tickets can be issued to each child on the first day adding realism as well as communicating any dietary restrictions. It is recommended that a Time Travel Portal guard punch each child's ticket as the week progresses, and that tour guides keep track of tickets for their group. Tickets can easily be made a different color or pattern for each group.

JOE'S TIME TRAVEL TOURS

Ticket to Adventure

Traveler: _____

Dietary Notice: _____

(Parent Sign) _____

Parental Consent for
Intercontinental Time Travel

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Exodus 13:21 ESV

Noah's Ark



Ancient Israel



Jesus' Day



Ancient Greece



Modern Mission Field



PART 6: GUIDING BIBLE PASSAGES

Gen 1²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Gen 6 When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them,² the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.³ Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with^[a] humans forever, for they are mortal^[b]; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.⁵ The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.⁶ The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.⁷ So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.”⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Neh 13¹⁵ In those days I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day.¹⁶ People from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise and selling them in Jerusalem on the Sabbath to the people of Judah.¹⁷ I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them, “What is this wicked thing you are doing—desecrating the Sabbath day?¹⁸ Didn’t your ancestors do the same things, so that our God brought all this calamity on us and on this city? Now you are stirring up more wrath against Israel by desecrating the Sabbath.”

John 12³⁷ Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: “Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”^[a]³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: ⁴⁰ “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them.”^[b]⁴¹ Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.⁴² Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;

Rom 1¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,^[a] just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”^[b]¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Rom 5⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!¹⁰ For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law.¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

Acts 19⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.⁹ But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.¹⁰ This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.²¹ After all this had happened, Paul decided^[a] to go to

Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. "After I have been there," he said, "I must visit Rome also."²² He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.²³ About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way.²⁴ A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there.²⁵ He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: "You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business."²⁶ And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all.²⁷ There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty."²⁸ When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"²⁹ Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together.³⁰ Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him.³¹ Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.³² The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there.³³ The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander to the front, and they shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people.³⁴ But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"³⁵ The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: "Fellow Ephesians, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven?"³⁶ Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to calm down and not do anything rash.³⁷ You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess.³⁸ If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges.³⁹ If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly.⁴⁰ As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it."⁴¹ After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

Rev 21 ¹Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." ⁴'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life." ⁷Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." ⁹One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹²It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ¹⁵The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. ¹⁶The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia^[c] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. ¹⁷The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits^[d] thick.^[e] ¹⁸The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. ¹⁹The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.^[f] ²¹The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass. ²²I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.